Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term outcome of infective endocarditis: a study on patients treated in a Finnish teaching hospital during 25 years

Version: 1 Date: 24 October 2007

Reviewer: Raul Moreno

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is interesting, because of the very long term follow-up of the study population of patients with infective endocarditis. I only have some comments:

1. It would be interesting to provide the data (at least those related with long-term mortality and other clinical outcomes) not considering all the 326 episodes, but only the 303 first episodes of endocarditis.

2. If possible, the concret causes of death could be provided, and not only as "cardiovascular" and "non cardiovascular" death.

3. In the discussion, a paragraph trying to explain the prognostic implications of collagen disease in these patients should be included.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'