Reviewer's report

Title: Time series analysis of age related cataract hospitalizations and phacoemulsification

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2005

Reviewer: Jari Haukka

Reviewer's report:

General

This MS utilizes large data but the basic aim of the study remains partly obscure. Why would it be interesting to model seasonal variation of cataract operations? We know that less operations is carried out when doctors are on vacation. What does this MS add something to this.

My opinion is that more thorough analysis would improve this MS a lot.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1) The prevalence of cataract operations should be adjusted for changes in age structure during follow-up period.

2) If it is possible to check differences between geographical areas that should be done. E.g. the density of ophthalmologist in area could be one possible explanatory variable. Also other area relevant variables should be included.

3) More explanatory variables, if available, should be added. As authors put in Conclusions "The current study is descriptive in nature and...", there should be more description, which means more variables.

4) No comment on ethical board statement was not mentioned. Who has given permission to use this data.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.