Reviewer’s report

Title: Waiting for elective general surgery: impact on health related quality of life and psychosocial consequences.

Version: 1 Date: 6 March 2007

Reviewer: Alv Dahl

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General
I found this paper well-done in all aspects. My comments therefore are mainly suggestions for further improvement.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. The relationship between the current paper and reference #32 should be spelled out. Is this a paper made from a dissertation or a master paper?
2. The data were collected 5-6 years ago. I miss a comment on the long publication delay.
3. I miss explanations for the categorizations of various variables.
4. I also miss a more in-depth explanation for the quite low response rate.
5. Altogether there are 9 tables, some of the quite brief and could they be described simply as text?
6. I miss clinical/organizational implications of the results. These patients came from 27 surgical departments, which imply few patients from each department. Do each hospital operate in splendid isolation, or are there some sort of regional or national co-ordination. If not so, should that be a consequence of the findings of the study?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. The authors state that long delays represent a threat to the quality of care, both in the Abstract and in The Background. To me there are no associations between these concepts, and the authors should spell these associations out more clearly.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no interests to declare regarding this paper.