Reviewer’s report

Title: In-hospital mortality after stomach cancer surgery in Spain and relationship with hospital volume of interventions

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2009

Reviewer: Ronald Damhuis

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Table 4. It is uncommon to mention the p-value for the individual category. I would rather see the overall p-value for the variable. For the variable ‘surgery’ it is not clear to me what the reference category is. In the appendix I would state that complications are not included in the secondary diagnoses (this is mentioned in the methods section but needs to be restated)

- Minor Essential Revisions

Some editorial assistance (native English writer) would substantially improve this manuscript.

- Discretionary Revisions

This paper addresses an important question but the study has several limitations due to the quality of the information available. Given the absence of better information and the fact that the authors mention the limitations in the discussion, the results are worth publishing, especially because the information is coming from Spain.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.