Reviewer’s report

Title: Is age an independent determinant of mortality in cardiac surgery as suggested by the EuroSCORE risk evaluation system?

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Reviewer: Dr Samer A Nashef

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept without revision

This is a sound paper which essentially agrees with the EuroSCORE premise that age is an independent risk factor for mortality after cardiac surgery but offers the possibility that the risk factor "age" may indeed hide a number of diseases which increase in prevalence as age increases, such as diabetes, hypertension, atrial fibrillation etc. The paper reaches no definitive conclusion but is thought-provoking and stimulating as well as being coherent and scientifically sound.

Competing interests:

I am the project leader for EuroSCORE, and therefore may be biased against papers which criticise the system, but this paper simply explores in fair way some of the intricacies of our work.