Reviewer's report

Title: Is there a relationship between weather conditions and aortic dissection?

Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2005

Reviewer: John Ludbrook

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors' conclusions in their Abstract and their Discussion are entirely dependent on a p value of 0.022 in Table 2. But, in this Table, they are testing 6 simultaneous hypotheses. This demands an adjustment to control the familywise Type I error-rate. When I applied the Ryan-Holm stepdown Bonferroni adjustment, p = 0.022 became p = 0.132 - not statistically significant. This means that their inference about standard deviations is not sustainable.

In short, they have failed to demonstrate any 'significant' relationship between variations of atmospheric pressure and surgically-treated aortic dissecting aneurysm.

I don't see how this MS can be accepted.

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

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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)