Reviewer's report

**Title:** Coronary artery bypass grafting and sensorineural hearing loss, a cohort study.

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 7 October 2005

**Reviewer:** Roger Davis

**Reviewer's report:**

General
The revised paper is improved in clarity. Some issues still remain.

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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)

The sample size calculation should be better justified. The author cites two widely varying estimates of the rate of hearing loss in the exposed group (0.1% and 13.2%), and questions the validity of each. The sample size is calculated using an estimate approximately halfway between them, but no explanation is provided for this choice. There is also no justification given for the choice of the estimate in the controls. Is it reasonable to assume that hearing loss in a group undergoing head and neck surgery is the same as in the general population?

There are also some typographical errors:

1. page 3 and page 10, ‘Fischer exact test’ should be ‘Fisher exact test’
2. page 3 ‘date interpretation’ should be ‘data interpretation’
3. page 4 ‘morbid’ should be ‘morbidity’

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests