Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Use of routine hospital morbidity data together with weight and height of patients to predict in-hospital complications following total joint replacement

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Daniël Haverkamp

**Reviewer’s report:**

This manuscript describes an attempt to validate the Hospital Morbidity Data (HMD) and to judge whether there is room for improvement by adding extra variables.

The primary research question is important since more and more large studies are based on these types of database structures, and because of the large numbers in these reports, they may have important political implications.

This study clearly shows that the information in the tested HMD is not reliable, of the obese patients only 64/216 (30%) are marked as obese, meaning that a total of 70% is not documented.

This is important information, which reflects all studies performed with these database structures. However in the current results and discussion this important point is not that clearly discussed and disappears in the remarks of possible improvement.

I would like to see this article re-written, focussed on the primary research question and discussing the lack of validity of the HMD and it’s implications on past and current research. (major compulsory revision)

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'