Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of on-site cardiac catheterization on resource utilization and fatal and non-fatal outcomes after acute myocardial infarction

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2006

Reviewer: Scott Wright

Reviewer’s report:

General

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

1. The authors cite their own data to suggest that access to on site PCI did not improve survival in AMI and justify their observations as upholding the TACTICS Timi 18 and TIMI 3B data. This is not scientifically valid. The two cited trials were non-ST trials; primary PCI is primarily a benefit in ST MI. The authors did not distinguish outcomes between ST MI and non-ST MI; their data are not interpretable with regard to the a priori hypothesis they claim.

2. The authors did not provide a multivariable model depicting the impact of various risk factors on survival, various medical interventions (ie aspirin use, bb use) on survival, and on whether survival of st and nonst mi were statistically different.

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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)

3. The observation that patients admitted to a hospital with on-site cath had greater utilization of echo and nuclear testing. This simply confirms the opinion that boys (and girls) with toys play more with them.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests