Reviewer's report

Title: Hospital outpatient perceptions of the physical environment of waiting areas: the role of patient characteristics on atmospherics in one academic medical center

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2007
Reviewer: Stefano Tabolli

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   - It is not new but it is well defined and well documented

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   - Yes but the format of questionnaire is not presented (it is not crucial)
   - Table 4 could be deleted and few statistically significant data could be inserted in the text.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   - Yes. A small suggestion: sometimes it is better to consider only the strongly satisfied (5 Likert point and unsatisfied all the others) usually patients in a waiting room for visit are positive and less realistic (positive bias)

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   - Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   - Yes.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   - Yes

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   - Yes

   - The manuscript is sound and it could be interesting for hospital management,
   "atmospherics" have different standards in different Countries. Such information have to be monitored and added to the quality perceived by patients if we need to improve it.