Reviewer's report

Title: Cumulative incidence for wait-list death in relation to length of queue for coronary-artery bypass grafting: a cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 29 July 2006

Reviewer: william wijns

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)

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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)

This is a very carefully done analysis of a large database showing that longer waiting lists for CABG are associated with increased mortality.

One would like to know how the incremental risk of waiting for surgery compares with the risk of the procedure itself. This risk could either be the predicted one on the basis of the EuroScore or the actual risk, if available.

Presumably, patients on the longer waiting lists have a low risk profile. If the risk of waiting was similar or even higher than the procedural risk itself, this would militate in favour of modifying the current strategy and/or the health care provision.

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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 importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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