Reviewer's report

**Title:** Factors Which Influence the Cardiac Surgeon's Decision Not to Operate on Patients Referred for Consideration of Surgery.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 18 October 2007

**Reviewer:** Paul Horan

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions:

This is a well written and presented article attempting to answer an important question.

However, although the authors answer the question of what are the major reasons to not operate on a patient they also imply that this is due to recent scrutiny of outcomes.

The authors must change the language of the article regarding this or they will need to produce data from another time period documenting the change before and after the Bristol Inquiry. Otherwise the difference is conjecture and possibly due to some other confounding influence.

I would also need clarification regarding the assessment of who calculated the Euroscore and if this person had an interest in the surgical outcome as this may also introduce bias.

The numbers are not particularly large however I feel they probably represent a reasonable snap shot of the reasons for surgical acceptance or rejection.

This may be the first attempt to analyse the reasons why patients are turned down for surgery however it is not the first paper to attempt to quantify the numbers of patients turned down for surgery (Progressively increasing operative risk among patients referred for Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery) Ulster Med J. 2006 May; 75(2): 136–140.

Minor revisions:

None

Discretionary revisions:

None

**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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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