Reviewer’s report

Title: Why are heart operations postponed?

Version: 1 Date: 26 April 2011

Reviewer: Christos D Karkos

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting short report on the important subject of postponement of cardiac operations. Although the facts are interesting and worth reading by the average cardiovascular surgeon, the manuscript lacks quality in presentation. There is a lot of verbalism and the paper would need a very major linguistic revision by a native English speaker.

Comments:
1) "organisatory": change to "organisation"
2) "in order of significance": change to “in order of frequency”
3) round up percentages, i.e. 52.12% to 52% etc
4) abstract: prognostic factors for postponement (age, Euroscore, etc) were sought. Please, include this methodology in Methods (abstract)
5) Introduction: shorten and rephrase so that it is straight to the point
6) Introduction: "Although organisatory reasons have also been taken into account, we have mainly focused on the medical conditions that are responsible for this postponement." This should be removed from here and may be added to the discussion.
7) Methods: Include the statistical methodology in the end of Methods
8) Methods: define EUROSCORE
9) Results: Organise your presentation of results in a systematic fashion or in a table
10) Introduction & Discussion: Please state clearly why you opted to perform such an audit and what are the clinical implications for your daily practice. What measures you will take to improve things?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'