The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Dr Benjamin Shandro, from St George's University of London. Dr Shandro is one of the study's authors, and has formal training in biostatistics, including a Master of Public Health degree with modules in advanced medical statistics. He confirms that the statistical methods selected are appropriate to the research question, described adequately, and comply with the BPJ directives.

B Shandro, on behalf of the authors

Email: bshandro@nhs.net