

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Variable selection under multiple imputation using the bootstrap in a prognostic study

**Version:** 4 **Date:** 16 April 2007

**Reviewer:** Patrick P Royston

### 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)

On page 15, you state "Austin & Tu [13] proposed the use of bootstrapping methods in combination with backward selection". This approach was suggested more than a decade earlier, by Sauerbrei & Schmacher (1992) [14], and should I feel be attributed to them, not to Austin & Tu.

The word "barrel" in the revised version is not understandable. I suggest "channel".

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