Author's response to reviews

Title: Using the LACE Index to Predict Hospital Readmissions in Congestive Heart Failure Patients

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Cover letter

Dear Editors and reviewers:

Thanks for your valuable comments on our manuscript “Using the LACE Index to Predict Hospital Readmissions in Congestive Heart Failure Patients”. According to the editors and reviewers comments, we made the revisions and the followings were the answers of all the comments. We hope that our revised manuscript is suitable for publication in your journal.

Editorial Comments:

Q1: I agree with the view expressed by the Referee n°1 (Dr. Pucciarelli) in its commentary, that argues for the need to provide more details about criteria that apply to the LACE index.

In this regard, I suggest to build an explanatory table, if possible.

A1: An appendix table was generated to address the detail of LACE index and how to calculate, revisions were made (see: in line 64 and the appendix table)

Q2: Similarly, in keeping with the observations of Dr. Pucciarelli, I recommend to draw a ROC plot for illustrating the text of the Results (row 168: ?Using the LACE index to predict likelihood of ED revisits at 30, 60, and 90 days post discharge the odds ratios were 1.42, 1.29, and 1.23 separately (p<0.01). The C statistics associated with the LACE index were 0.66, 0.63, and 0.60 respectively?). The three ROC curves related to the three follow-up time points (30, 60, and 90 days) should be reported all within a single figure, if possible.
A2: Figure 1 was added to the manuscript with the figure legend attached. Revisions were made in the manuscript (see line 171, 285-290, and figure1 attached)

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thanks

Looking forwards to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Authors