Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors influencing injury severity score regarding Thai military personnel injured in mass casualty incident April 10th, 2010: Lessons learned from armed conflict casualties: a retrospective analytic study

Version: 2 Date: 18 October 2011

Reviewer: Stephen H Thomas

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract
1) Please keep consistent, in the number of decimals in reported data.
2) Please outline, at least in brief, the statistical methods used. In the abstract and elsewhere, it’s probably not necessary to carry numbers to the second decimal place.
3) When discussing “expected” deaths, many readers will assume that TRISS was used. Please clarify.
4) Please clarify what the “baseline” was, for the finding that certain injured body regions were associated with higher ISS. (In other words, consider reporting odds ratios for higher ISS for head/neck, as compared to extremities injuries.)

Background
1) ISS cut-off has the reported sensitivity and specificity for what outcome?
2) Since the final calculated ISS includes only those body regions with the higher AIS scores, this methodologic issue may best be mentioned.

Statistical analysis and Results
1) Use of parametric statistics is best accompanied by demonstrate that data were normally distributed. These data are almost certainly not normally distributed.
2) With only 18 patients in the group comprising the outcome of interest, the conclusions that can be drawn may be limited.
3) One reviewer’s opinion: These data do not appear to be analyzed in the most useful fashion. As an interested reader, I think it might be the case that the data would be better understood if simple descriptive statistics were used to present the characteristics of patients seen in the events in question.