Reviewer's report

Title: MELD score and antibiotics use are predictors of length of stay in patients hospitalized with hepatic encephalopathy

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Reviewer: Shahin Merat

Reviewer's report:

The authors have retrospectively studied the files of over 300 subjects with hepatic encephalopathy in order to find risk factors for longer hospital stay.

The information is useful and nicely presented. nevertheless I have a few comments.

1. The authors have used % change in hospital stay to express differences. This is not a common way of reporting hospital stay. Usually number of days reduced is reported. It took me some time to notice what these percents mean. The authors should explain in methods that results are reported as % change in hospital stay and preferably explain why they preferred % over the more common # of days.

2. In the text when talking about comparisons the authors should also mention the mean (or median) values. eg "patients hospitalized specifically for HE had a significantly shorter length of stay (4 vs. 13 days, 55.5% decrease; p<0.001)". This would make the numbers much more understandable.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests