Reviewer’s report

Title: Short-term Geriatric Assessment Units: 30 years later

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2010

Reviewer: nathalie salles

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It should be very interesting here to have information about the geriatric organization in included centres, i.e., presence or not of geriatric rehabilitation care, geriatric mobile team in different Emergency Department, geriatric day hospital, presence of Post Emergency Geriatric Unit, support home care organization…It should help authors to explain differences in elderly patients admission procedures.

2. Even if the study included a large number of GAU (71), results do not, in my view, impact geriatric practices, and do not give important practical implications for geriatrics. It would have been interesting to detail the results, i.e., to compare the number of beds of the different GAU included in terms of duration of stay and geriatric assessment for example. But also to identify subgroups, for example GAU of University hospitals, GAU with better ratio of health care professionals…In my opinion, the study only describes different not readily comparable GAU distributed in Quebec.

3. The Method part of the paper should be more detailed, for example, it should have been interesting to describe different index employed: Index of clinical severity and Index of risk of mortality; which scales were employed (geriatric standardized evaluation) in the different included GAU, …

In conclusion, reported results are only descriptive without real answer to a well defined question.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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