Reviewer's report

Title: Risk stratification and rapid geriatric screening in an emergency department - a quasi-randomised controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 4 June 2014

Reviewer: Fabio Salvi

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The Authors analyzed data following the intention-to-treat principle: I think this is correct by I would like to see also the results by excluding "mixed" patients and by considering them as cases (adding them to the intervention group). I think this should dramatically reinforce the study results. I think it is also methodologically correct because emergency physicians were not blinded to the results of the screening...

2) Lack of blindness of the RA who made telephone follow-up is instead a severe limitation of the study and should be even more seriously considered.

Minor Essential Revisions
a) ABSTRACT and text (METHOD: Study design) disagreed about even- or odd-numbered patients enrolled in the control or intervention groups
b) BACKGROUND: references 13-15 are cited before than 11,12 in the text.
c) BACKGROUND: please consider to cite the largest study of comparison between ISAR and TRST (Salvi F et al. Rejuvenation Res 2012).
d) METHOD (The setting): annual rate of 180,000, but Figure 1 reported 176,000 for at least (see below) 13 months. Please correct the estimate.
e) METHOD (The setting): among eligibility criteria, TRST score lacks mark as "(2)".
f) METHOD (The setting): please declare how you defined an advanced state of dementia.
g) METHOD (Control group): please clarify the sentence "within 3 days of discharge to collect data regarding the outcome measures up to 12 months".
h) RESULTS (Recruitment): text (1st line) and Figure 1 reported different study periods.
i) RESULTS (Positive Findings & Intervention): Figure 2 (not 3) described the results reported in the last line of text.
j) DISCUSSION (line 213): "Results of geriatric screening in the ED has been mixed" is grammatically incorrect (have been).
k) Reference 10: "Tommaso, G." is instead "De Tommaso, G."
l) Reference 20: is by "Adams, J.G., Gerson, L.W."
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests