Reviewer’s report

Title: Short-term mortality after perforated or bleeding peptic ulcer among elderly patients. A population-based cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 16 January 2007

Reviewer: mario testini

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions.

The paper is very well constructed and could be interesting for the scientific community. However, elderly is a well known risk factor of mortality after perforated or bleeding peptic ulcer. In our previous report (M. Testini et Al. World J Gastroenterol 2003 October;9(10):2338-2340 )as in other's reports is stressed that other factors such as concomitant diseases, shock on admission, delayed surgery, and postoperative abdominal and wound infections were significantly associated with fatal outcomes and older age tended to fulfill a similar trend. For these reasons we believe that the Authors in the Background should clarify these statements: "....Nevertheless, virtually no data exist on the influence of comorbidity on age-related increase in mortality of perforated peptic ulcer." and "...Again, no study has examined whether this association is related to increased burden of comorbidity in elderly patients."

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'