Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 4 April 2007

Reviewer: Monique Leerdam van

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors have answered the questions and changed the article where necessary. The article can be accepted for publication in the present form. The data are important and the study includes a very large cohort of complicated peptic ulcer patients.

Just because I am interested in this subject an additional comment, not mentioned to be changed in the present article.

Because mortality is still very high in this patient group, stressing the importance of prevention of peptic ulcer complications, I am interested in the risk factors for a bad outcome of peptic ulcer complications. For this reason I would have liked to know the prognostic factors. It is clear that the authors want to focus on the association between age and mortality following peptic ulcer complications and that the focus of the article was not the determination of independent risk factors. However, it is clear that we cannot change anything to the fact that a patient is older, so we need to look for other risk factors in order to reduce the mortality rate. So the message should be to prevent peptic ulcer complications (reduction of Nsaids, additional PPI's etc) and to prevent mortality (prevention of rebleeding, need for surgery etc). Maybe several aspect can be withdrawn from this very large cohort in future.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept without revision

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