Reviewer’s report

Title: Does applying the Canadian Cervical Spine rule reduce cervical spine radiography rates in alert patients with blunt trauma to the neck? A retrospective analysis.

Version: 2 Date: 1 April 2008

Reviewer: Constantine Gatsonis

Reviewer’s report:

1. Version 2 of the manuscript seems to respond reasonably well to the comments of the reviewers.

2. The fundamental limitations of the study (retrospective application of a rule on data that were already collected, lack of statistical design and sample size considerations) cannot be remedied, of course. However Version 2 presents adequate qualifiers to the reader.

3. The large reduction in radiography use (about 75%) that would have resulted from the Canadian Cervical Spine Rule in this study cohort continues to be puzzling and is rather very different than the 25% reported in reference [12]. I did not feel that the explanation in the last paragraph of the discussion section went far enough in discussing the possible contributors to a difference of such magnitude.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests