Reviewer’s report

Title: The DUNDRUM-1 structured professional judgment for triage to appropriate levels of therapeutic security: retrospective-prospective validation study.

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Reviewer: Gian Marco Polselli

Reviewer’s report:

In my opinion, this is an interesting article, written about decision in various level of therapeutic security admissions for people with mental illness valuated in prison. The consistency and the validity of DUNDRUM-1 is well-studied with a retrospective-prospective study. Some minor bias would be:
1) the different samples of two investigated groups
2) the researchers not completely blind in prospective study
Above all, the return of the well-know idea of “dangerousness” in psychiatric patients is the main problem found in this kind of studies. As a result, the purpose to build an efficient structured instrument to value the necessary therapeutic security level for these patients is the most important aim in forensic psychiatric field.

As described in the article, the results of this study might not generalize to another jurisdiction and would be essential to replicate it in other mental health systems.

Finally I find:
the question posed by the authors is well defined,
the methods are appropriate and well described,
the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition,
the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data

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 interest