Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence rate, predictors and long-term course of posttraumatic stress disorder after major trauma: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2012

Reviewer: Birgit Kleim

Reviewer's report:

This is a revised version of a previously submitted article titled „Prevalence rate, predictors and long-term course of posttraumatic stress disorder after major trauma: a prospective cohort study“. The study question is timely and of interest to BMC Psychiatry readers although the study is limited by the lack of baseline PTSD diagnosis, absence of clinical interviews and reliance on subjective symptom severity scores based on IES cut-off scores. The following critical comments remain:

1. Please specify in the introduction what you refer to by major trauma, i.e., traumatic stress, traumatic injury.

2. „PTSD symptoms (...) and may either disappear immediately after the event or have a delayed onset“ - please provide a reference.

3. The authors should spell out what exactly they are investigating in terms of pre-trauma hospital care, i.e., they should specify that they index the presence versus absence of pre-hospital trauma care via helicopter or other emergency teams, rather than any other medical, interpersonal or information-processing aspects with regards to pre-hospital care. This information should also be added to the table (Table 3). They may also want to spell out hypotheses relating to this proposed predictor and its association with chronic PTSD and speculate further in the discussion why this was not significant. Might it be that HEMS and EMS attended to the most severe cases and that some of them may have developed PTSD in the absence of this care?

4. Relatedly, the abstract mentions the „advancement of prehospital trauma care“ - what is meant by „advancement“?

5. In the limitations, the authors should state that other predictors were not indexed in this study, such as peritraumatic processing, social support or other predictors suggested by recent meta-analyses or other empirical studies on injury survivors.

6. Additional: please check punctuation throughout the manuscript

p.5. admitted to ICU

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