Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes of clinical staff towards the causes and management of aggression in acute old age psychiatry inpatient units

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Reviewer: Cesare Maria Cornaggia

Reviewer's report:

This work touches a problem of great interest nowadays, aggression, referring to the elderly, which is the least studied age. It looks at it from the point of view of the nurse and not only from the doctor's one.

The paper includes a rich and complete bibliography.

The number of cases is still quite small and they come all from the same mental service; this limit is recognized by the authors, but it has to be overcome in further research.

The use of only two scales appears to be a bit limiting. In any case the paper is worth of publishing.

In my opinion, the authors could be a little more cautious in their conclusions that are interesting and agreeable but not totally supported by the limitation and by the lack of strength of the collected data. This could be a suggestion for a minor revision of discussion and conclusions.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.