Reviewer's report

Title: Alcohol and risk of admission to hospital for unintentional cutting or piercing: a population-based case-crossover study

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2011

Reviewer: Jana Spilkova

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes, the paper investigates on the role of alcohol misuse in cutting or piercing injuries. These appear among the most often reported causes of unintentional injury morbidity across the developed world.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The methods are appropriate and reasonably well described.

3. Are the data sound?
   The data were gathered as case-svoucher study, during a period of one and a quarter of year in three large districts of the country.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   The sample is well described, however a little bit twisted when related to the whole population, this fact is not discussed at all in the paper.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes, discussion is very good, comparing the results with other relevant studies. However, the conclusion may be a bit extended.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   Yes.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   To a certain extent, however, there could be more work in the background about the role or difference of home versus work environment.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes.
9. Is the writing acceptable?
yes.

Minor essential revisions:

1. The background of the paper and its conclusion should be revised to match together better. There is no elaboration on the importance of such study for future strategies or possible mitigation of injuries from cutting or piercing. As I mentioned above, there is no explanation of why injuries from the home environment only were taken into account.

2. The sample does not seem to be truly representative to the population, could there be more information about e.g. the proportion of alcohol misusers or smokers in the population. Is any comparison with other significant unintentional injuries available? Why have the authors chosen cutting and piercing injuries? Do they mean a severe danger when compared to falls or car accidents etc?.

3. The values of OR for the "week before" vs. alcohol 1 to 3 drinks are not significant at 95 %. The significance level could be depicted within the table, e.g. by bolding the significant categories etc.

4. The conclusion seems to be a rather underworked. Again, please declare why it is important to deal with alcohol and smoking and mention why the other categories (marihuana, sleep deprivation etc.) are not worth further investigation.

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

   **Quality of written English:** Acceptable

   **Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

   **Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.