Reviewer’s report

Title: Is all-cause and cause-specific mortality lower among refugees and immigrants than among native Danes? - a historical prospective cohort study

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Reviewer: Augusto Hasiak Santo

Reviewer’s report:

Comments about the manuscript "Is all-cause and cause-specific mortality lower among refugees and immigrants than among native Danes? – a historical prospective cohort study.

Title: the title of the manuscript is too long, includes a question and even its answer, and might be improved. (discretionary revision).

On page 3, Study cohort, the phrase "Danish-born comparisons were used once only" should have its meaning clarified.

Also, the authors inform that 6,188 migrants born in Western Countries were excluded. This information might be clarified. We see that there are migrants from Former Yugoslavia included in the studied cohort and this is a point of confusion. Is Former Yugoslavia considered a Western country? (minor revision)

On page 4, Data collection, the authors mention "death causes"; what sounds strange; maybe "causes of death" would be better (discretionary revision).

Also on page 4, it would be necessary to inform that the deaths due to cancer (malignant neoplasms) and cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are qualified as underlying causes of death. (compulsory revision)

It would be interesting the have the methods of data standardization better specified: direct of indirect standardization, standard population, standardization of the Danish mortality data (?). (compulsory revision)

On the last line of page 4, "cause-specific" instead of "case-specific".

On page 5, Statistical analysis, it is supposed that the relative risk (RR) is estimated by means of comparison between migrants and reference Danish death rates. Nevertheless, the word "rate" appears in the manuscript once only.

In Results and Discussion, lower and higher risks variations would receive correct meaning and connotation when described by means of rates (compulsory revision) It would be interesting to show death rates on Tables (discretionary revision).

On page 7, Results, in the first line of the paragraph beginning with "Table 4 shows", "cardiovascular" instead of "cardiovascular".

On page 8, Methodological strengths and limitations, it is mentioned that 1.7% of all death certificates had "unknown" causes of death, which might be qualified as "ill-defined causes-of-death" or be referred to the specific chapter of the International Classification of Diseases. (minor revision)
On page 9, All-cause mortality, there is a reference to "the healthy migrant effect (x)" whose meaning might be clarified (minor revision)

On Table 1, please confirm the "Emigrations" values for Danes. Is it correct so many people leaving Denmark?

On Table 1, it is supposed that the values between parentheses related to median ages refer to confidence intervals.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.