Reviewer's report

Title: Leukocytes as a Prognostic Factor for Patients with Pulmonary Embolism

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Reviewer: David Jimenez

Reviewer's report:

In this study the authors assessed the prognostic significance of SIRS and WBC count in a retrospective cohort of patients with acute PE. They found that both are associated with prognosis. Moreover, WBC count improved the prognostic ability of the PESI. The study is well done, and data are sound.

MAJOR ISSUES

1. Why were haemodynamically unstable patients included? These patients do not require further risk stratification, and aggressive therapies should be used, unless contraindicated. I suggest to remove these patients from the analyses.
2. I would like to hear about those patients who were excluded. A patient flow chart (according to STROBE) would be interesting. How many patients did not have all variables to be analyzed?
3. Would it be possible to analyze the performance of the simplified PESI?
4. Authors should include etiologies of death in the Results section of the manuscript.

MINOR ISSUES

1. I calculated the NRI for WBC count on top of the PESI, and I found it to be 8.05% (P = 0.04). Please check.

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