Reviewer's report

Title: Ear, nose and throat injuries at Bugando Medical Centre in northwestern Tanzania: a five-year prospective review of 456 cases

Version: 1 Date: 9 January 2013

Reviewer: Moses Galukande

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the authors for taking on this important subject in a resource limited setting, however there are a few issues to sort

major revisions

Introduction

1. In the introduction ..the second last sentence ...it is stated that ENT injuries are significant but neglected and this is repeated later on...clarify neglect

Methods

2. How were the patients with ENT injuries identified from the rest of the patients that presented ...it is not clear

3. You state that patients who failed to give proper information and those who had no relative to consent were excluded ...clarify what was meant by proper and why patients needed relatives to consent for them!

4. Among the variables studied disability was mentioned ...but not defined ..what does this mean and how were patients with disabilities identified

Analysis and results

5. Of the 530 patients , 456 were included missing out 74. For a prospective study it is rather on the high side...and that missing data should be discussed in regard to its impact on validity of the data

6. Segregating this data by age i.e pediatric and adults and perhaps segregation along urban and rural origin may add valuable perspectives

7. The type of Foreign bodies was an important omission

8. No limitations stated

Minor essential revisions

9. Pre hospital care was mentioned for a few patients what type of care was it...some details may be useful

10. Please clarify if injuries to the esophagus should be included in this study
11. Several typos and word repetitions
12. The 2nd line under methods should perhaps read... consultant led
13. Public enlightenment campaigns are mentioned ...perhaps state some specifics
14. consider use of the phrase /word non operative care instead of treated conservatively
15. Ideally traumatic laryngeal stenosis is treatable by resection and anastomosis

**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