Reviewer's report

Title: Cancer History, Bandemia, and Serum Creatinine Are Independent Mortality Predictors in Patients with Infection-Precipitated Hyperglycemic Crises

Version: 1 Date: 5 March 2013

Reviewer: Marie M McDonnell

Reviewer's report:

Annotation Summary for: 1070015992892456_article - 1

Minor essential revisions: Page 3,
  Please add the Number of patients included for analysis in the Results section of abstract.

Page 7,
  Do you mean "Alive" instead of "survival"? To match this verbage, the Table reading "Survival" would read better as "Alive at 30 days" and the next column "Deceased at 30 days"

Page 7,
  In methods, there appears to be a superscript 2- What test is this representing?

Page 7,
  Please state here what percent had HHS and DKA, respectively (belongs in results, not later).

Page 9
  Re: comparing mortality among different subtypes. Given the differences in mortality found between groups, and the small numbers in each, it is more reasonable to state "we found differences in mortality similar to the literature but this did not reach statistical significance, likely due to small group sizes"

Page 9,
  Do you mean "ventricular arrythmia related to hypokalemia"

Page 9,
  Re Content: "Their initial serum potassium was 2.1 mg/dL and 2.3 mg/dL, respectively. This reminds us that patients with normal or low serum potassium levels have a severe total-body potassium deficiency. Their cardiac functions must be carefully monitored and their potassium vigorously replaced [1]."

    I suggest eliminating this detail and comment as off scope. Would end with "women with type 1 diabetes." and reference this phenomenon as you have done
Major compulsory revision:

Page 10,

Re: to add to limitations. There is a dramatically high prevalence of HHS relative to DKA in this population, especially since the authors correctly define each. This may be why the pH did not correlate with death, since the majority in this small cohort did not have acidosis. Could the authors comment on this? Is this low prevalence of DKA due to the hospital's patient population (mostly type 2?) or is there an outpatient program designed to treat early DKA and prevent admissions? Other explanation? Please comment as this is interesting.

Marked up using iAnnotate on my iPad

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.