Reviewer's report

Title: Predictive factors of adrenal insufficiency in patients admitted to acute medical wards: a case control study

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Reviewer: Philippe Chanson

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The article "Predictive factors of adrenal insufficiency in patients admitted to acute medical wards: a case control study" reports the results of a retrospective study in which diagnostic value of various signs and symptoms known to be present in adrenal insufficiency was studied, the gold standard being the response to Synacthène stimulation test. The strongest factor associated with the positive diagnosis was an history of glucocorticoid withdrawal.

Comments

Major comments:
1- The main concern with that study is the absence of data with the final diagnosis in the 32 patients considered as having adrenal failure. It would be of great value to have a table indicating the precise diagnosis in the 32 patients. Indeed, the present manuscript does not even indicate if the adrenal insufficiency was primary or secondary. In that context, ACTH measurement would have been useful but is unfortunately unavailable.
2- The other concern relates, on the contrary, to the potential presence of false negative tests, in particular if cases of partial corticotropic deficiency have been tested. At least this needs to be introduced in the Discussion as a limitation of the study

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest