Reviewer's report

Title: Drug shortages in European countries: a trade-off between market attractiveness and cost containment?

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Reviewer: Joseph Fuhr

Reviewer's report:

The paper begins to analyze the drug shortages in European countries. However, the paper does not present sufficient evidence to determine the quantitative significance of the problem. What is the value of the drugs in shortage? Has a gray market developed as in the U.S. Have prices been increased in this market if it exists? Further in the discussion section the authors begin to suggest some possible reasons for the shortage. Can the shortages be tied to these reasons? The causes of the shortages are an important component that the paper does not address. If the causes are unknown at a minimum the paper should present a clear statement on the quantitative significance of the problem and even some anecdotal evidence suggesting the impact on patients and providers.

The question is well defined but unfortunately there is not much in the way of answers to the question. The English needs to be reworked. So it needs some language corrections before being published. The manuscript does not need to be seen by statistician. I have no competing interest.

The article topic is of great interest.