Reviewer's report

Title: Severe Mental Illness and Mortality of Hospitalized Acute Coronary Syndrome Patients in the Veteran Healthcare Administration

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Reviewer: eric van Belle

Reviewer's report:

The authors investigated the relationship between the presence of severe mental illness (schizophrenia, severe mood disorder, anxiety disorder and personality disorder) and medical care as well as clinical outcome in 14,194 patients admitted for an acute coronary syndrome in VHA hospitals.

Their hypothesis was that ACS patients with severe mental illness would undergo less coronary revascularization during the index hospitalization and have higher 1-year all-cause mortality and AMI re-hospitalization.

They found that patients with SMI were younger, more often Caucasian, and more often female. They were more likely to have a diagnosis of alcohol abuse, liver disease, and dementia, and to be current smokers. Prior cardiac history was similar except that patients with SMI were less likely to have had prior CABG surgery.

They found no significant differences in medical care between patients with or without SMI, including the rates of diagnostic coronary angiogram, coronary revascularization, and prescription for secondary prevention medication. Similarly, adjusted clinical outcome was similar in the 2 groups.

The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found and the writing is clear.

Overall this study is carefully performed and analyzed.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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