Reviewer's report

Title: War-related psychological sequelae among emergency department patients in the former Republic of Yugoslavia

Version: 1 Date: 24 December 2003

Reviewer: Dragica Kozaric Kovacic

Reviewer's report:

Introduction is too long and it would be better to divide it in 2 parts:
1) with the data from literature,
2) description of the situation.
It is not quite clear in which kind of emergency departments in Belgrade or Kosovo was the investigation done, because PTSD and depressive disorders in most cases are non-acute psychiatric disturbances and they do not need urgent treatment in emergency facilities. May be it is related to the organisational structure of mental health system and not to the mental health disfunction.
Although, the authors state that both the HTQ and CES-D questionnaires have been used extensively in a variety of international settings, there is no description of their validity and reliability in this particular populations. Also, it missed who applied the questionnaires (psychiatrist, physician, etc.) and how they were trained.
It is not quite clear in the article if this psychopathology is consequence of the war or post-war stressors or both.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None