Reviewer's report

Title: Causes, pattern and short-term outcome of chest injuries at Bugando Medical Centre, Mwanza, Tanzania

Version: 2 Date: 24 September 2010

Reviewer: Galukande Moses

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

Discussion:
• The discussion is rather crowded with many ideas presented in a rather difficult to follow manner, may be write it as a story with facts stringing together for easy reading;
• I find ideas in the discussion that don’t seem to be in the results like delay in diagnosis.
• The recommendations made are rather broad and don’t seem to draw directly from the study, I could have made them without doing the study. The recommendations should be very specific.
• What are the lessons you draw from this study that are novel, to your context or transferrable to other contexts? This is not well articulated
• Some issues that are important are not discussed like pre-hospital treatment

Discretionary revisions

Clarify these Definitions;
• ‘Soft tissue’ – what do you technically mean by time?
• ‘Conservatively’ - this term insinuates passive approach; I would suggest you use non operative approach
• ‘RTA’ – shouldn’t it be RTC road traffic crush.
• What does ‘simple’ mean? as in Simple chest drainage tubes:
• ‘Staffs’ what does this mean? is this correct English?

Minor essential revisions

Citations 8 and 9 are 12 and 18 years old. Can you find newer literature?

Typos – correct them, for example:
4th line in patients and methods section ‘collage’
Page 10 ‘axillary staff’

Design

Your design is prospective other than cross sectional since you got a follow up
component to it.

**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:**

No competing interests