Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of GIS to study Trauma Epidemiology: A pilot study conducted at a Trauma Care Unit.

Version: 1 Date: 21 May 2007

Reviewer: Steffen Ruchholtz

Reviewer’s report:

General

The presented study shows how an analysis of injuries in a certain area could be helpful to prevent accidents. Although the idea of the study is very convincing the method of the scientific analysis is poor. Several questions have to be answered conclusively before publication can be considered.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Who took the data and how the information about the exact location of the injury was retrieved in the retrospective study?

Are the authors able to give more detailed information about the 166 patients?

Why did the authors not take additional important parameters like: time of injury, injury severity score, revised trauma score, etc. – maybe a place with more important recurrent injuries was ignored?

Where there other places with a higher rate of accidents and were these sites analyzed? In the map there are other areas with a higher density of accidents.

Was there a prospective study conducted to show if the amount of injuries was really reduced in that certain place or was it just ‘prospective’ observation?

What do the authors think is needed to use the system for a region with a higher population and a higher rate of accidents?

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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