Reviewer's report

Title: Trauma management incorporating focused assessment with computed tomography in trauma (FACTT) - potential effect on survival

Version: 1 Date: 14 January 2010

Reviewer: Michael Rieger

Reviewer's report:

This investigation of trauma management incorporating focussed assessment with computertomography in trauma with potential effect on survival is a valuable contribution. The study demonstrates very nicely the paradigm shift in the primary emergency room management of polytraumatised patients: the unstructured mess with the realisation of time-consuming investigations without clear task assignment will leave in favour of a clearly defined emergency algorithm to which the whole body-CT contains as a leading diagnostic modality. The seriously injured patient is accompanied by a shock room team with defined duties and responsibilities.

Edits:

Discussion

The authors indicate that the shock room algorithm used by them which includes the whole body-CT as an integral component decreases the mortality. Please highlight that the use of whole body-CT combined with your trauma algorithm lowers the mortality of polytraumatised patients. Other reasons for the lower mortality are e.g., the shorter praehospital time as well as the shorter time intervals up to the diagnostic measures (FAST: 4.3 versus 8.7; Chest x-ray: 8.1 versus 16.0; WBCT: 20.7 versus 36.3). Also differences in the clinical parametres (amount of infusion, shock etc.) as well as therapeutic measures (number of the operations) could possibly have an influence. This would be well to be mentioned in the discussion.

Page 8: acronym acronym FACTT

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests