Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of shorter prehospital transport times on outcomes in patients with abdominal vascular injuries.

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Reviewer: Vance Sohn

Reviewer's report:

Dr Ball and colleagues have written an interesting manuscript on the impact of prehospital transport time on outcomes with abdominal vascular injuries. They compared two eras from the early 90's where the coordinated efforts of the Grady Memorial Hospital EMS system was not as robust. While it is a well written manuscript, their attempts at correlating transport times to outcomes falls short of their stated goals in this ambitious project.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The lack of reported data is presumably from the complicated and multiple factors associated in these severely injured patients and not solely from the fact that they had an abdominal vascular injury. Data such as the mechanism of injury, rate of death in the ER, post-mortem diagnosis, surgical interventions etc would have all been helpful.

2. While it is a possible conclusion that shorter pre-hospital transport has led to differences in outcomes, as the authors correctly point out, these are patients from different eras that do not account for the advances in trauma care in the pre-hospital and hospital settings. The broad range (13 years) included in this series do not account for these differences unless that is the reason why the authors stopped in 2004. This arbitrary cut-off should be explained as to why the data does not encompass the most recent available information.

Minor Essential Revisions

3. What is considered hemodynamic instability?

4. What is the rate of death on arrival, death, or intervention in the ER? This information may have been a useful surrogate of the severity of overall injury or vascular injury.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
No