Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk scores for predicting dysphagia in critically ill patients after cardiac surgery

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: The study is well conceived and has been rigorously executed. The manuscript is well written.

The study is worthy of publication on these grounds alone, although the strength of the association with stroke and weakness of the association with the other factors identified might diminish the impact of the study.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

There are no problems with the paper - it is well written and clear. It is technically sound. The sections flow logically. It is well referenced. The tables and figures are clear. The problem with the study is the strength of the association with stroke compared with the other factors.

Some reviewers might state that essentially the findings could be summarised as showing that if you have a stroke after cardiac surgery you will be at risk of dysphagia, and that this is well known and does not require a scoring system.

If the authors could make a slightly stronger case for the scoring system, this might help with publication.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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