Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 02 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Eun-Ho Lee

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for the detailed responses. I have a few remaining concerns. In response to my query regarding sample size calculation, the authors note that they estimated a 30-40% incidence of postoperative dysphagia on the basis of preliminary data and reported prevalence. And then they estimated that 25 patients were required to provide 90% power to detect an increase in the incidence of dysphagia from 30% to 60% with a type I error probability of 0.05. But I do not exactly understand what '25 patients' means here (required sample size in this study?). Please present the sample size calculation method used in this prospective cohort study in the text.

Page 5, line 42 (Background section): " congestive, heart failure" (remove ",")

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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