Reviewer’s report

Title: Pain, Distress, and Anticipated Recovery for Older Versus Younger Emergency Department Patients after Motor Vehicle Collision

Version: Date: 26 February 2014

Reviewer: Marian Betz

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-written, interesting paper examining ED patients seen for MVCs in terms of differences between younger and older patients. The particular focus is on pain, distress, and expected recovery time. I look forward to seeing the paper in print.

A few minor comments:

Minor essential revisions:
--“Older patients who experience MVCs are more likely to live independently and have a greater risk for persistent pain and PTSD than patients who fall.” This needs a citation

Discretionary revisions:
--“Younger adults who were rear-ended had more distress, but older adults who were rear-ended had less distress.” I wonder if some of this may have to do with the consequences of a crash—in that perhaps an older adult with a rear-end crash feels less likely to be blamed for it (and perhaps have his/her license taken away). In general, some mention of the larger debates around older driver safety could be a nice addition. It could also interesting in subanalysis to see if the older adults who were driving varied in their distress or pain.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
No conflict