Reviewer’s report

Title: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and its predictors in Emergency Medical Service personnel: A cross-sectional study from Karachi, Pakistan

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2017

Reviewer: Elizabeth A. Donnelly

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article.

First, I would like to applaud the authors for their attention to this very important topic. This continues to be an under-explored area, especially outside of North America and Europe. As such, this effort has worth.

In the methods section, the authors report several Cronbach's alpha scores. This is a strength, but it should be explicitly stated that it is for THIS sample.

Further, I would encourage the authors to be more explicit about how they measured personal history. What is being assessed? What do you mean by "psychological stress?" If participants were taking medications for depression/anxiety/PTSD? This is unclear.

In the same vein, please be more explicit about family history. Did you ask "does your family member have a psychological problem?" That does that mean? What did you capture? What constitutes a psychological problem?

In the Data Collection section, the authors state that they needed a certain sample size to estimate a certain prevalence of PTSD. It is not clear what they mean here, especially as they assert that the IES-R cannot give a cut-off score for PTSD.

The authors report that 34% of the population were using substances. This isn't clear, given the CAGE AID assesses for problematic use. What exactly are you reporting?

In Table 1, types of traumatic stresses are reported. This isn't described in the methods section.

On page 8, please report p values in the text.

Again, in the results section. You discuss three types of coping, problem focused, emotion focused, and dysfunctional coping. I am unclear how you came to these groupings, as the citation links to Carver's original work, which has more than three groupings. Specifically, the author states he has created no such groupings. See http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/ccarver/sclBrCOPE.html. How did you create these composites? All coping may be adaptive or maladaptive depending on the circumstances. The term "dysfunctional" strikes me as unnecessarily pejorative.
**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

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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