Reviewer’s report

Title: Ambulance use is not associated with patient acuity after road traffic collisions: a cross-sectional study from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 06 Jan 2018

Reviewer: David Peran

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this article. I found the following when reviewing the manuscript:

Abstract

Page 2 - line 10 - "road traffic accident" These days this term was replaced by the "road traffic collision" (definitely in UK) - because these accidents are not always classified as accident. (If decide to change it from RTA to RTC, then in whole manuscript)

Page 2 - line 12/13 - The sentence "The primary outcome was ambulance arrival." seems not to be in context. The "outcome" means "result", but here it is more in the meaning of information source or data for analysis.

Background

Page 4 - line 22 - What does "lower-resource approaches" mean in the environment of LMIC. I can imagine the ambulance services in the meaning of prehospital emergency care or patient transport ambulances. Maybe this part might be more described for those out of Africa.

Methods

Page 6 - line 4/5 - August 22nd→ March 9th

Page 7 - line 10/11 - You are describing that the triage acuity scores was grouped into three categories, but later on (especially in the Table 1) you are working with the original 5 terms (but grouped according to the categories - I know). I will suggest to unify the terms used across whole text for better understandability of the results.
Results

Page 8 - line 14 - "Most RTA patients (65.9%)" according to the Table 1 it is 66% (42.5 + 20.4 + 3.1).

Page 9 - there is no reference to the Table 3 in the text - I suppose that the reference might be in the chapter Inter-facility communication.

The references to tables across text are bold. Sometimes not…

List of Abbreviations

Page 17 - not all of them are listed here.

Review Summary

Overall, this manuscript is well-written and can be used as a good start for the changes in the system of care in Ethiopia. The methodology is well described. Some minor changes (maybe even essential for better understandability of the results) needed before accepting.

I thank the authors for their work on this manuscript and for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal