Reviewer’s report

Title: Anxiety About Anxiety: A Survey of Emergency Department Provider Beliefs and Practices Regarding Anxiety-Associated Low Risk Chest Pain

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jan 2018

Reviewer: David E Winchester

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In this investigation, the authors conducted a convenience sample survey of 409 EM providers at a professional meeting. The survey gauged providers' opinions on the impact that anxiety has on the evaluation of ED patients with chest pain syndromes. Some of the findings are expected while others, such as perceptions of limited access for anxiety management and providers' reluctance to discuss anxiety are concerning.

The authors do a nice job of recognizing and highlighting their key findings related to perceptions of anxiety prevalence and the substantial gaps in care which exist.

The authors note that untreated anxiety may contribute pathophysiologically to the development of other chronic illness such as CAD. While this is true, the degree of connection and the long time frame between the two makes this a relatively weak justification for intensifying efforts to improve care for the anxious patient. Better would be to focus on poor quality of life for these patients and their propensity for recidivism/low value care as is done later in the discussion.

The authors may wish to consider highlighting any "success stories" in the literature where a facility has successfully addressed anxiety. If this has been done, how? Easy access to clinic referrals? A self-referral therapy program? Enhanced discharge communications? Collaboration with psychiatry/psychology?

It may help the reader to more closely link the estimates of anxiety from the survey sample to the published data that are cited. If the survey respondents estimated 30% prevalence and that is what is documented in the literature, the survey respondents should be lauded for their acumen.

In table 3, what are the units, median scores? n of respondents? If these are n respondents, would also include %.

For Table 4, Did the authors offer use of a standardized tool/instrument for diagnosing anxiety (such as GAD surveys) for the respondents to consider using?

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.

Unable to assess

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?  
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I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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