Reviewer’s report

Title: The prevalence of alcohol and illicit drug use among injured patients presenting to the emergency department of a national hospital in Tanzania: A prospective cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 31 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Hani Mowafi

Reviewer’s report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

The study is an important one on the prevalence of alcohol and illicit substance use in trauma presentations. There are a few essential revisions however before publication:

1) It was indicated that this was a convenience sample. More elaboration of the sampling method for the shifts selected is necessary in order to establish that this was representative. Further, what are the overall numbers of trauma presentations during this period? Knowing this would give a better sense of the magnitude of cases and potential substance related cases.

2) Is objective testing currently routine or was this only done for this study? It seems that the findings of the high percentage of cases POSITIVE for substance use (even in the case of patient denial) argues for the use of this type of testing more routinely. What are the barriers to such implementation? For example, in many places the high cost of the point of care tests (cartridges, etc) prevents routine use. Your findings could argue for the cost benefit of doing such testing but this needs to be more highlighted in the manuscript.

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 organisation 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.

none

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/). 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