Reviewers report

Title: Acute abdominal pain: concomitant leukocytosis and lymphopenia predict significant pathology on CT. A case-control study

Version: 0 Date: 09 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Michael Ward

Reviewers report:

Well-written and does correctly identify significant limitations.

The scope of the study does not justify the conclusion. As noted in the limitations, this study only evaluates patients in which a CT was obtained and does not assess all comers for abdominal pain. Therefore, suggesting that the combination of leukocytosis and lymphopenia by itself "would be sufficient to justify emergency CT" seems presumptive. Additionally, odd there is a significant degree of missing data for markers that would seem to be readily available for a retrospective study. I also reject the claim that many of the CT findings provide a benefit to the patients being scanned. Several of the diagnoses have traditionally fit into that of a clinical diagnosis which often does not require imaging.

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.

No

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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