Reviewer’s report

Title: Prehospital Cricothyrotomies in a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service: Analysis of 19,382 Dispatches

Version: 0 Date: 17 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Hendry Sawe

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.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript that provides details of a rare procedure to secure airway especially in pre-hospital settings

Major

1. This is a retrospective analysis with only 18 patients and hence substantially limits the statistical analysis and meaningful results interpretation. I recommend the authors to consider this as point of discussion and limitation.

2. Table 2 is not part of the authors' methodology, and is used in discussion, which might be confusing to most readers.

Minor

1. Could authors provide details of providers involved in performing the CT procedure

2. Table 1 needs to be redesigned, as currently it appears mostly like list of items and this might be mis-interpreted or confusing

3. Could the author provide details of timing of evacuation from dispatch?

4. The conclusion of high success rate is based on the comparison made in table 2, which is not part of methodology and also the study settings and populations in those other studies looks very different, this should appear in discussion.
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.

Unable to assess

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?
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/). 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