Reviewer’s report

Title: Emergency department visits in older patients: a population-based survey

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2018

Reviewer: David Peran

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this article. I would like to thank the authors for their work and my comments are below.

Abstract, title and references

The title is informative and relevant to the content of the article. Abstract summaries the content in a clear way.

References are relevant and except two of them are all recent (last 10 years). This topic of elderly patients in the emergency medicine is not common and the older articles might be also used and they have been used appropriately.

Introduction and background

Introduction into the topic and research question are well described.

Methods

There is variety of methods used in this manuscript and all of them are well described and used appropriately so the study is replicable in different settings.

Results

Results are described in a clear and understandable way and are well supported by figures and tables.

Discussion and Conclusions

Results are discussed from multiple angles (medical, economic) and placed in the context of other similar studies. The authors also added their point of view on the potential solution of the problem, which is not the aim of the study, but the authors mentioned that in the discussion. The only thing which might improve this part from my point of view is to add references to support the 3 possible solutions (because the results did not support these claims) even when they are obvious according to common sense.

Figures and tables
Figures and tables are understandable, described and support the results and discussion part.

Summary

This population-based survey is well designed and brings a clear data of current problem of almost all European countries and points out the future development of the situation. Future research might be done also in other countries to discover how deep the problem is and to find the best solution. These articles might support next research in this area.

I would like to thank the authors for their work 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/). 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.