Reviewer’s report

Title: Pre-referral stabilization and compliance with WHO guidelines for trauma care among adult patients referred to an urban emergency department of a tertiary referral hospital in Tanzania

Version: 0 Date: 08 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Kehinde Oluwadiya

Reviewer’s report:

Please use Road Traffic Crash rather than Road Traffic Accident throughout the manuscript

Introduction

Page 3, Line 17 & 18 "In Tanzania, deaths from road traffic accidents, which account for over forty percent of all injuries (11)." should read "In Tanzania, deaths from road traffic accidents account for over forty percent of all injuries (11)."

Also, this section should include a little more information on the WHO Essential trauma Guidelines. What are the principles involved? What is expected for each level of care and resource setting?

Methodology

The study setting is poorly described. What exactly is the relationship between MNH, MHN-ED and the orthopaedic Institute? Are they an interwined complex or are they separate entities.

In addition, what are the levels of care of trauma patients in Tanzania? It is necessary that the readers know this because in the result section (Pg 6, Lines 44-48), the authors refer to "levels of hospitals" and then went on to list types of hospitals instead.

Page 4, Line 19-23: The hospital has a bed capacity of 1500 and receives about 1500 inpatients per week. This implies that the turnover per week is equal to the exact number of beds in the hospital. How is this possible?

Page 4, Line 43 -45: "A research assistant consecutively enrolled patients 12 hours a day, 6 days a week alternating days and nights." This sentence is not clear. Why was the enrolment done for only 12 hours per day and only 6 days a week? Why alternating days and nights?

Page 5: data Analysis: It is no longer necessary to include the full meaning od SPSS, Just refer to it as IBM SPSS. Also, the first sentence should be in past tense.
Result

Table 1: Total of male & Female should be 367, and not 368

What percentage of the patients arrived within 6 hours, the golden period of injury care?

Table 2: Confidence Interval is not appropriate for the statistic shown on this table.

Pg 6, Line 24: Change pts to patients

The paper alludes to situations where stabilization were improperly done, however, these were not highlighted in the paper. I recommend that the authors do this, otherwise, this should be stated as a limitation of the study.

The study also seemed to indicate that the lowest cadre hospitals had better stabilization rate than the next cadre (Pg 6, Line 29-36). The authors should discuss this curious situation.

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?
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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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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