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: 10 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Abhijit Adhikary

Reviewer’s report:

The pre-hospital and trauma care situation of Tanzania resembles that of my country of Nepal. Our ED, a part of the largest privately run tertiary centre in the country, receives cases in conditions not unlike the ones the authors describe. I empathise with the authors' anguish of not receiving referral cases with proper pre-hospital/ pre-referral management. It is also a well-established fact that pre-hospital splinting and immobilization techniques can be a major contributor to better patient outcomes. While extremity and C-Spine immobilization have been considered for the study, use or lack of spinal immobilization/ use of spinal boards for whole spine immobilization has been omitted. I am curious to know whether the omission is deliberate or if there were other limiting factors.

The study in itself justifies its outcome measures, however a more elaborate study with greater sample size, and eventual patient outcomes with presence or lack of immobilization as defining factors, would have been more useful.

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?
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Unable to assess

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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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