Reviewer's report

Title: The importance of increased awareness for delirium in elderly patients with rib fractures after blunt chest wall trauma: a retrospective cohort study on risk factors and outcomes

Version: 0 Date: 07 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Kate Curtis

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper which aims to determine the importance of increased awareness for delirium in elderly patients with rib fractures after blunt chest wall trauma using a retrospective cohort study design. This is an important and under researched area. I have minor comments which are mainly around language.

Abstract

Suggest rephrasing this to state there is no known investigation around……rather than "to our knowledge". Using that phrase doesn't demonstrate that you have actually reviewed the literature to fact check etc. "To our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate risk factors of delirium in elderly patients with rib fractures after trauma.

Results: What are KATZ-ADL and SNAQ? You use P and p for p value - please correct. "The 6-month mortality in delirious patients was nearly twice as high as in non-delirious patients; however, differences did not prove significant" Rephrase to did not reach statistical significance.

Introduction: "After sustaining rib fractures, hospitalization is often required due to severity of the associated injuries and the need for proper pain management." - suggest rephrase to "adequate pain management".

To our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate risk factors of delirium in elderly patients with rib fractures after trauma." Suggest rephrasing this to state there is no known investigation around……rather than "to our knowledge". Using that phrase doesn't demonstrate that you have actually reviewed the literature to fact check etc.

Why did you choose patients older than 65years?

Pain management and therapy were based on the Visual Analogue Score - you need a reference for this sentence

The need for ICU admission - was this unplanned ICU admission?
Results: Remove the word "significantly" from the text. The p value should speak for itself.

The variables shown in Table 1 with a p-value below 0.30 were selected to simultaneously enter the first logistic regression model as explanatory variables for delirium - this is methods, rather than results.

Discussion

Remove the sentence "To our knowledge, no previous studies have been published...."

In a recent study by O'Connell et al. (insert the date it was published rather than use the word recent)

The sentence starting "In a recent study by O'Connell et al....." belongs in the background, not discussion. This goes to your justification that there isn't any other work done in this field.

Although hypothesized......you have not clearly stated the hypotheses in the methods a finding considered by the authors to be relevant, even though this difference was not statistically significant. - perhaps state that this finding is clinically significant rather than what you think

Nearly a quarter of patients undergoing surgery for a fractured hip develop a delirium - suggest deleting this paragraph, doesn't really add anything


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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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