Reviewer’s report

Title: First line in psychiatric emergency: Pre-hospital emergency protocol for mental disorders in Iran

Version: 0 Date: 13 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Jana Seblova

Reviewer's report:

The topic of psychiatric emergencies is very relevant as there is a world-wide increase of these patients in both prehospital services as well in EDs, and to introduce the situation in different countries is interesting due to cultural and also economic context.

However, form my point of view the paper needs major revisions.

First, co-operation with native speaker to improve the text and assure also the right terms are used, is recommended.

It is not necessary to repeat in the text the content of the tables or to name the resources (Methods section, lines 45-50) - they should be addressed in References section.

The text is structured in points and quite often just copies the tables as written above. I should recommend to concentrate on description and analysis of the situation with psychiatric patients in prehospital settings in Iran related to the new protocol, and parts (or the whole protocol) add as attachment.

I also consider clarification of panel members’ responsibilities redundant as this is clear based on their expertise.

The Results section could be shortened and rewritten as a text, and some of the tables are more text than really tables, so consider to work both with text and tables (namely Tables 1, 3 and 5).

Medication - in the text there is used term "antibiotics" instead of antipsychotics. Why is biperiden used in medication - could the authors comment this? A single dose of antipsychotic medication doesn’t cause a risk of extrapyramidal symptoms and its anticholinergic effect can be in some situations of acute agitation.

When speaking about "beds" used in case physical restraints are needed, do the authors really mean beds at ED or ambulance stretchers? The title is related only to prehospital management, so I’d recommend to concentrate only on this phase of patient’s management.

I appreciate the stress on family involvement, on differential diagnostics as a first step to consider also somatic causes of agitation and the stress on vital function’s continuous evaluation.

As I wrote in the beginning, the topic is relevant and interesting so I hope the authors will undertake the work and improve their paper.
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.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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