Author’s response to reviews

Title: Analysis of readmissions to the Emergency Department among patients presenting with abdominal pain

Authors:
Artur Kacprzyk (artur.kacprzyk@gmail.com)
Tomasz Stefura (tomasz.stefura@gmail.com)
Katarzyna Chłopaś (katarzyna.chlopas@gmail.com)
Kaja Trzeciak (trzeciak.kaja@gmail.com)
Aleksandra Załustowicz (aleksandra.zalustowicz@uj.edu.pl)
Mateusz Rubinkiewicz (mateusz.rubinkiewicz@uj.edu.pl)
Michał Pędziwiatr (michal.pedziwiatr@uj.edu.pl)
Kazimierz Rembiasz (kazimierz.rembiasz@uj.edu.pl)
Piotr Major (piotr.major@uj.edu.pl)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Piotr Major MD, PhD
2nd Department of General Surgery
Jagiellonian University Medical College
Jakubowskiego 2 St., 30-668 Kraków, Poland
email: piotr.major@uj.edu.pl

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Editor-in-Chief
BMC Emergency Medicine

Dear Editor,

Please find attached manuscript entitled “Analysis of readmissions to the Emergency Department among patients presenting with abdominal pain”, which I am re-submitting for consideration for publication in BMC Emergency Medicine.
Please accept my apologies for the delay in manuscript revision. In recent weeks I have been overwhelmed by clinical responsibilities due to COVID-19 pandemic, what highly limited my scientific activity.

We sincerely appreciate the feedback and constructive criticisms from the reviewers and we have revised our manuscript in accordance to recommendations.

Thank you for receiving our paper and re-considering it for publication. Please feel free to contact me with any questions concerning this manuscript. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Piotr Major on behalf of the authors

Dear Reviewer #1,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We are happy that our article has met your requirements in terms of methodology and data presentation. We do agree, that the topic of readmissions to Emergency Departments has been previously widely described, nonetheless majority of authors focused on general population of patients who present to Emergency Department. Due to specific nature of abdominal disorders, especially relatively high risk of symptoms’ recurrence, we aimed to focus exclusively on patients who presented with abdominal pain. Our approach, which relies on detailed analysis of each patient from Emergency Department to hospital ward, has not been yet described in such a population and provides interesting insight not only into acute patient’s care, but also into further steps of diagnostics and treatment process. In our opinion presented data and conclusions drawn from our analysis will provide a useful tool for clinicians in Emergency Departments.

Dear Reviewer #2,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We have followed your suggestions and corrected the manuscript accordingly. Please find response to your comments below and in manuscript, where corrections were marked with red color of the font.

1. Background: Abdominal pain is one of the most common complains among patients
   SUGGESTION : Please change 'complains' to "complaints"

   Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.
2. INTRODUCTION: Emergency Department (ED) is an essential component of healthcare system. Number of patients treated at ED has been rising constantly [1]. SUGGESTION: 'raising' to be changed to "rising"

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

3. INTRODUCTION, PARAGRAPH 2: Management of patients presenting pain or tenderness in SUGGESTION: presenting WITH pain ("with" omitted)

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

4. METHODS, SETTING: 'The ED of the one academic center of the tertiary referral level, which admits adult patients in states of sudden health and life threat, who are constantly supervised by at least 4 physicians working on call.' SUGGESTION: Please rephrase this statement. It doesn't flow well

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

5. METHODS: 'Additional tests were identified as diagnostic procedures not included in the stand protocol of care used in our ED.' SUGGESTION: Review 'stand' to "standard"

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

6. METHODS: 'and every subsequent visit including total time spend in the ED.' SUGGESTION: total time "spent", not spend

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

8. ANALYSIS OF ENDPOINTS: rate of patients admitted to the surgical ward, rate of patients qualified for surgery SUGGESTION: Could you use the word "Proportion" instead of 'rate'

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.
9. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS : 'Results were presented as a mean with standard deviation (SD) or median and interquartile range for non-normally distributed values (IQR). SUGGESTION : "Results were presented as a mean with standard deviation (SD) or median and interquartile range (IQR) for non-normally distributed values.'

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

10. RESULTS : 'In 3-month study period 11306 patients, were treated in ED of one academic center.' SUGGESTION : "In the 3-month study period, 11306 patients were treated in the ED of our academic center."

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the manuscript accordingly.

11. DISCUSSION : 'Patterson et al. estimated it as 12.4% among patients with abdominal pain and Friedman et al. assessed it as 12% among older adults [13][14] SUGGESTION : Please check referencing

Thank you for your comment. We corrected the referencing accordingly.

12. TABLE 1 : ED DISCHARGE DIAGNOSIS Why is Nausea and Vomiting, Diarrhoea, written down as diagnosis. They are symptoms. All these patients had abdominal pain therefore the accompanying symptoms cannot be written as diagnosis. Please review it.

Thank you for your suggestion. We corrected the table accordingly.