Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 28 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Winfred Baah

Reviewer's report:

1. Background: Abdominal pain is one of the most common complaints among patients

SUGGESTION: Please change 'complains' to "complaints"

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"

3. INTRODUCTION, PARAGRAPH 2: Management of patients presenting pain or tenderness in

SUGGESTION: presenting WITH pain ( "with" omitted)

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

5. METHODS: 'additional tests taken in the ED (chest or abdomen RTG, CT scan, gastroscopy), ED discharge'

SUGGESTION: Could you please define these first time abbreviations

6. 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"
7. ANALYSIS OF ENDPOINTS: 'and every subsequent visit including total time spend in the ED'

SUGGESTION: total time "spent", not spend

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'

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.'

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."

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

12. TABLE 1: ED DISCHARGE DIAGNOSIS

Why is Nausea and Vomiting, Diarrhea, 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.

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

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I recommend additional statistical review

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