Reviewer’s report

Title: Characteristics and resource needs in patients with vestibular symptoms: a comparison of patients with symptoms of unknown versus determined origin

Version: 0 Date: 07 Jun 2020

Reviewer: Peter Vanbrabant

Reviewer's report:

In general:
This study identifies independent risk factors for VUO in patients presenting with vestibular symptoms. I don't see how this knowledge would change my daily practice in the ED. The data presented cannot help in identifying patients at risk for serious outcome nor in guiding 'prudent allocation of resources', as is mentioned in the abstract's conclusion.

The conclusion of the abstract is a rather general statement on vestibular symptoms in the ED and does not describe what is investigated in this study.

The message on appropriateness of imaging is confusing. On the one hand, the authors make a plea for thorough clinical examination and 'prudent allocation of resources', on the other hand they recommend MRI ('justifying the use of additional ED diagnostic resources, including neuroimaging') even if it was not the aim of the study ('to determine whether the indication for the tests performed was correct lies beyond the scope of this analysis').

Specific:

Page 5: 'cross sectional study' vs page 19 'cohort study': please clarify the study design

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.

No
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:

Acceptable

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