Reviewer’s report

Title: Indirect impact of violent events on Emergency Department utilization and disease patterns

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Michael M. Dinh

Reviewer's report:

Generally well written and interesting topic worthy of publication

It would help to make it clear from the outset that this was a study at a hospital distal to major centres treating casualties at the scene of major incidents that have occurred in Beirut. It would be also valuable to know what distances and or minutes drive from incident scene locations to this hospital.

the context of the Lebanese civil war in the 1970s-90s seems a little out of place in the study protocol. maybe have this in the introduction to place this nation's recent violent past in better context

Statistics - it would be more relevant to analyse the ESI as an ordinal variable rather than a continuous one. A mean ESI value of 3.1 versus 3.2 means very little to the average reader and is it clinically significant?

it would also help to have categorised the ED diagnoses into broader (mental health, injury, msk, infections abdominal etc) to help with an understanding of group differences rather than comparing the top 20 diagnoses, when in fact the cumulative sum of the infrequent diagnoses could be quite substantial.

A time series analysis of counts of ED presentations would also be more robust and conclusions more believable.

minor general comments - to refer in methods to past tense consistently

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:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors'
responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal