Reviewer’s report

Title: Indigenous traumatic brain injury research: Responding to recruitment challenges in the hospital environment

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Reviewer: John Yue

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Review for BMC Medical Research Methodology Indigenous traumatic brain injury research: Responding to recruitment challenges in the hospital environment.

General: Overall, the manuscript addresses a pertinent topic within TBI. Ensuring that clinical conclusions are generalizable should be an ongoing priority of the field. This requires representative patient populations in research studies. Highlighting the challenges faced when incorporating historically marginalized groups into research is important. Considerations below to bolster the manuscript for publication.

- Page 10, line 15-16: A claim that earlier contact decreases DAMA is made. Is there any data from before and after said changes as they relate to rates of DAMA?

- Page 10-11 lines 24-1: "In certain cases a single score of 12/12 was deemed sufficient by their treating medical officer, as opposed to three consecutive days. These varying circumstances resulted in some eligible patients being discharged without formal emergence from PTA and therefore deemed unsuitable to consent." - Should clarify that a single score of 12/12 was deemed sufficient for DISCHARGE not study eligibility. Is it also possible to include numbers of how many patients were discharged prior to meeting study eligibility criteria?

- For each barrier to recruitment (DAMA, guardianship etc.) it would be instructive if a percentage was included to give the reader an idea of the prevalence/effect.

- The results/discussion reference patient quotes where patients felt stereotyped/targeted (due to race, perceived alcohol consumption). Is there a role for training house staff and research officers for cultural sensitivity to address this lack of comfortability indigenous people feel in the hospital environment?

The paper is instructive. Including concrete data behind the authors’ experiences would provide a better methodology from which to base future research studies.
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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