Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of scoring systems without endoscopic findings for predicting outcomes in patients with upper gastrointestinal bleeding

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Reviewer: Kuei-Chuan Lee

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In this study, IG Kuo et al retrospectively reviewed 590 patients with upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB). They aimed to compare the three scoring systems which were used to evaluate the severity and outcomes of patients with UGIB before endoscopy performed. They also investigated the potential cutoff scores to predict the need of interventions and 30-day mortality in applicable scoring systems. This study gives us some good concepts in evaluation of UGIB patient generally. I think the study has some values in practical care of UGIB patients.

Major comments

1. There were many diseases to cause UGIB, such as variceal bleeding, peptic ulcer disease, malignancy etc…, and different medication or interventions may be performed to treat different causes to UGIB. This study includes all UGIB conditions, as a result, there may be lots of confounding factors. I suggest analyze outcomes of subgroups (variceal bleeding vs. non-variceal bleeding, vs. malignancy) by the scoring systems.

2. As mention to UGIB prognosis, we do care about rebleeding rate besides mortality. Do you have the rebleeding rate of the study patients after medication or intervention therapy? Were there any relationships between the scores and rebleeding rate?

3. Minor

1. Page 2, line 18, "…for the need for interventions was (70.71 % sensitivity, …"

Should be "…for the need for interventions was 9 (70.71% sensitivity,…"

2. Page 6, " Study population "

Since the study were carried out at a teaching center, did you exclude the patients who were referred from other primary hospitals? Because these referred patients may have already received interventions before.

3. Page 7, line 2, " The proton pump inhibitor…”
Nowadays we all know that high dose PPI may downgrade the severity of Forrest classification when endoscopy is performed. Do you record the patients' proportion of receiving high dose PPI?

4. Page 25, "Table 2"

Since the patients were reviewed between 2007-2016, were there patients who received clopidogrel or NOAC (novel oral anticoagulant)? Because you only record Aspirin and Warfarin in your table.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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