Reviewer’s report

Title: KEY COMPONENTS OF THE DELIRIUM SYNDROME AND MORTALITY: GREATER IMPACT OF ACUTE CHANGE AND DISORGANISED THINKING IN A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Version: 1 Date: 20 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Alessandro Morandi

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written retrospective cohort study exploring the dose response effect of delirium on mortality in older patients admitted to an acute hospital. The authors provide important new information to the existing literature.

1) However, the authors should explain why (Table 1) patients with FSD have a 70% prevalence of CAM feature 1 and a 64% prevalence of CAM feature 1. According to the CAM instructions a patient is considered to have delirium if feature 1 and feature 2 are present along with either feature 3 and 4.

2) In Table 1 under "Clinical Characteristics" the fourth CAM item should be "altered level of consciousness"

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

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