Reviewer's report

Title: Short-term outcome of patients with possible transient ischemic attacks: a prospective study

Version: 1 Date: 22 November 2014

Reviewer: Brian Silver

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting analysis with significantly different findings from what appears to be a similar study published in 2007 (reference 12)

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors report that 1 patient could not be contacted and was excluded. Is that the same as the number lost to follow-up. If so, it is exceptional that >99% of patients were contacted. Please clarify.

There is a major difference in the finding of this study and the one published in JAMA in 2007 (reference 12), which showed an increased risk of stroke during long-term follow-up. The authors briefly discuss this study and state that the definitions of Possible TIA and Transient Neurological Attack may overlap. However, they do not discuss any reasons why they found no events and the authors of the 2007 found many events. Given the impact of the other study, it would be important to describe any possible reasons (e.g. better treatments over time? ascertainment bias? a true difference in patients?)

Did the authors evaluate for atrial fibrillation after ED discharge by means of longer-term cardiac monitoring? Post-discharge atrial fibrillation is identified in 5-20% of patients depending on duration of monitoring.

Minor Essential Revisions

There are minor grammatical errors, which require correction.

Discretionary Revisions

The authors may consider adding TOAST criteria for the mechanism of TIAs

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests