Reviewer’s report
Title: Acute and mixed alcohol intoxications in asylum seekers presenting to an urban emergency department in Switzerland

Version: 0 Date: 12 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Ann Kathrin Stock

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript submitted by Brown et al. investigates alcohol-and-mixed intoxication-related emergency department admissions among asylum seekers in Switzerland. The study is a well-conducted and clear cut research endeavor that sheds light on proportional incidence, population characteristics, and predictors of AAMI-related ED admissions among patients with a residency status of asylum seeker as compared to those with a residency status of Swiss-national.

In short, the study investigates an important and timely topic that has previously been largely neglected. The methods are appropriate, the sample is well-powered and the procedure as well as the results are presented and discussed in a concise and expedient manner. I would therefore strongly recommend to publish this manuscript after some minor edits listed below:

- In the abstract, the authors state that „Previous studies have reported an increase in alcohol-and-mixed intoxication (AAMI)-related emergency department (ED) admissions, but less is known about the incidence and characteristics of AAMI admissions to EDs among asylum-seeking patients.” This is true, but there should also be at least a short explanation on why asylum seekers could differ from other ER patients (overall health status / psychological health / stress / trauma / socioeconomic factors / education?) and how this is expected to alter their alcohol and drug consumption. In other words: please briefly provide some sort of mechanistic hypothesis (the conclusions section might help in this context)

- Abstract: please specify "consultation" (e.g. "medical consultation" or "consultation of a physician")

- Introduction: The authors list several studies showing that alcohol consumption and intoxication are associated with a large number of ED visits in several Western countries. This does however not underpin the claim that alcohol-related illnesses represent a GROWING area of concern in EDs, as the text of this manuscript contains no information on temporal development / trajectories.

- Methods: Please provide some more details on the analyses (which kind of analyses?) in the statistics section.
- Results, Demographic characteristics: Whenever ratios or percentages are compared (e.g. mean age, percentage of males, admission type etc.), please complement the description of these differences with parametric or non-parametric statistical tests. The resulting p-values from such group comparison tests should also be provided in table 1.

- Figure 1: Please provide a brief figure legend.

- Table 3: what is "Year of admission [from one to next]"?

- Please correct the format of dates (e.g. it is "January 1st" not "1st January").

- Please also refer to the findings reported by Carta et al. (2005, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16135246) and Horyniak et al. (2016, doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0159134). In this context, you might want to somewhat tone down the claim that "These findings are the first to show that individuals seeking asylum in a high-income country may be at greater risk for AAMI-related admission than the local population."

**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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