Reviewer's report

Title: Mortality in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA): Factors Associated with Recording RA on Death Certificates

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Reviewer: Suzanne Verstappen

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written and interesting paper investigating factors associated with recording of underlying causes of deaths in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Comments:

- More detail should be provided about the statistical analysis performed. What kind of bivariate analysis were performed (eg T-test, Mann-Whitney U test, Chi-square test). Also with respect to the multivariate logistic regression analysis please provide details on how variables were selected to be included in the final model.

- In the multivariate logistic regression analysis deformities and Charlson Comorbidity index were categorized in three categories. It is not clear why this was done and not decided upon prior to starting the analysis. Also including a continuous variable will give more power.

- It would be interesting to know the reason for hospitalization in those patients who died in the hospital and whether the cause of death is more likely to be related to reasons for admissions.

- Clinical and demographic data were assessed prior to death. What was the average time between the last assessment and death?

- Was the symptom duration known in this study?

- Table 1, please include all p-values

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

None