Reviewer’s report

Title: Contributing Factors of Elective Surgical Case Cancellation: A Retrospective Cross-Sectional Study at a Single-Site Hospital

Version: 0 Date: 25 May 2017

Reviewer: Clancy Jake Clark

Reviewer’s report:

Dr. Yu and colleagues have prepared an interesting manuscript investigating reasons behind cancellation of operations. The study involves a large cohort of patients from a hospital in China. This is a worldwide problem and this analysis would likely have broad readership. However, the reason for cancellation are so specific and highly influenced by known and unknown factors. They include: 1) patient factors, 2) physician factors, 3) institution/hospital factors, and 4) payor related factors. Each of these can influence cancellation. The study attempts to understand cancellation broadly across the entire institution rather than focusing on specific procedures. Rational for cancellation likely varies across type of operation and specialty. Most intriguing is that several surgeons were the main drivers of cancellation. I have several recommendations to improve this manuscript.

1) Provide additional detail regarding the hospital, its overall volume, case mix, inpatient vs outpatient, etc.

2) Provide additional information regarding the payor mix. Is this a private/self-pay hospital or charity hospital?

3) Provide specific analysis for high volume procedures. Potentially, you could explore several common operations or explore the most common operations to be cancelled.

4) Review and incorporate prior literature in and outside of China. How do these results compare with other countries?

5) Discuss the preoperative assessment process at your hospital. Is there a standard process? May hospitals in the US have created pathways and programs to address this specific concern.

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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