Reviewer’s report

Title: Emergency inguinal hernioplasties in a Tertiary Public Hospital in Athens Greece, during the Economic Crisis

Version: 2 Date: 02 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Rene Fahrner

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

I have reviewed your revised manuscript "Emergency inguinal hernioplasties in a Tertiary Public Hospital in Athens Greece, during the Economic Crisis".

First the title is misleading as you analysed all inguinal hernioplasties and not only the "emergency cases".

Furthermore I have still some major remarks:

- how is "emergency hernioplasty" defined? The fact that an operation is not planned does not mean that a medical emergency is present - there is no definition within the text (e.g. incarcerated...) - so the scientific basis of the study is weak and not obvious

- it is surprising that due to the small cohort size small differences between the groups are statistical significant (e.g. age, type of anaesthesia) and others not (e.g. costs).

- could you explain why an urgent hernioplasty is associated with a higher rate of epidural anaesthesia? There is no definition in which conditions the type of anaesthesia is used.

- inconsistency in data e.g. page 7, second paragraph: was the length of hospital stay during the crisis longer or not?

- why are the years 2010/2011 skipped from the analysis? Please clarify.

- based on the presented results some of the conclusions are impossible to draw or are contradictory (e.g. "exclusively Greek patients presented with intraoperative findings of intestinal ischemia", "need for postoperative ICU stay increased", "admissions and emergency operations rate for migrants and refugees also increased")

- between both periods the absolute number of treated patients did not differ - so the conclusion of bypassing small district hospitals is not likely, otherwise the number should increase - please comment. Furthermore small district hospital should be able to treat intestinal ischemia - so the conclusion that this fact of less support of district hospitals may
be an explanation for the increase of intestinal ischemia during the crisis is not probable as the data of small district hospitals are missing in this analysis.

- still language and editorial revision needed

Best regards

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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