Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Association between registered nurse staffing levels and in-hospital mortality in craniotomy patients using Korean National Health Insurance data

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 05 Dec 2019

**Reviewer:** Joshua Muliira

**Reviewer's report:**

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

The paper handles an important aspect of safety in neurology nursing and it is mostly well written. Please clarify the how the staffing level available on paper or records of the hospital matched the actual staffing level since on some day some nurses may be on sick leave, maternity leave or annual leave. Therefore the hospital documented staffing level may be much less than what is on the ground.

It is important to include the reason/indication for the craniotomy because this plays a role on the risk for death or survival. For instance a craniotomy done as part of a major brain tumor is going to present a higher risk compare to a one done to relieve brain edema.

How does the requirements of the Korean Law regarding staffing match with standards followed in international settings? This aspects will help the readers to view the utility of the findings in their respective settings.

**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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