Reviewer’s report

Title: Prehospital transportation to therapeutic hypothermia centers and survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

Version: 2
Date: 9 June 2015

Reviewer: Valeria E Rac

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting paper, well written. Study was well done, given its limitations. Compliments to authors..

Please see below comments for minor essential revisions.

1. Page 7, line 150 sentence that starts with although a recent trial has raised....it's quite long and it doesn't flow well. I would recommend splitting it into two sentences.

2. Page 8 under setting. It might be good to include the number of BLS units, if possible.

3. Is there any data available on the number of OHCA calls attended by BLS units only?

4. I just want to confirm how data on 30-day neurologically intact survival is being captured? Is it also through NJDDCS?

5. Page 11, Analysis section, under incident characteristics, location of OHCA and bystander CPR were not included in multiple log reg models. What was the reason? Multicollinearity?

6. Page 13, Results section it seems that authors could not link data for 737 patients (almost 13%) and what is more worrisome, out of 832 patients that survived to hospital discharge they did not have 30-day outcome available for 166 patients, which is 19.95%. I would like to see where these 166 patients were treated (TH or non-TH centers). Also text in the Results section describing Figure 1 could be a bit more precise to reflect it better, especially with the missing data on the transferred patients.

7. Discussion is good, though I would like to see stronger discussion on missing data and its impact.

8. Analyses were well done; like the part on instrumental variable.

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests' below.