Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical assessment is a neglected component of outbreak preparedness: evidence from refugee camps in Greece

Version: 0 Date: 11 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Aristomenis Exadaktylos

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Authors

Thank you for the opportunity to review your study which addresses a relevant and often underused and neglected aspect of daily medicine, that is clinical assessment. Especially in circumstances where resources are limited, as in a refugee camp, history taking is a headstone in patient management. The manuscript should be shortened and written more concise. The conclusion made is too broad and not completely based on the reported results (= assessment and documentation insufficient -> has to be improved). Here some specific comments:

- Abstract: could be shorter and more concise (no brackets with additional information)

- Introduction: try to follow the structure 1) Background, 2) what is known, 3) what is unknown, 4) what your study adds, and line 51-52 rather belongs to the method section

- Methods: NEWS and COAST score are not "statistics", but general methods; and exclusion criteria should be mentioned

- Results: absolute (n) and relative (%) numbers should be reported, age: mean & SD are missing; line 128 and 135: "% of the time": is it time or consultations?

- Discussion: line 182-190 report results and should be in the section above

- Limitations: sub-group analyses are mentioned here, but not reported in the results section

- Table 2: detail: write 4% instead of 4.00% (to keep it consistent)

- Abbreviations: write them all out the first time, e.g. EU and MSF

Kind regards

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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