Reviewer's report

Title: Variation in Practice Patterns Among Specialties in the Acute Management of Atrial Fibrillation

Version: 3 Date: 22 December 2014

Reviewer: Nassos Manginas

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In this manuscript the authors performed a survey among 124 physicians taking care of patients with AF, and compared the results with a similar Australasian (AA) study. They concluded that there is a large discrepancy in the way providers deal with significant issues in patient care, such as rate vs rhythm control, anticoagulation strategies and patient disposition. Significant variability was also among US vs AA physicians. This study adds to a growing body of evidence favoring intensification of efforts to standardize AF recommendations.

Major compulsory revisions.
1. The authors should provide more information regarding the 34 physicians who did not respond to the survey. Were they similar in characteristics with the responders?
2. Please explain why the CHADS2 score was used instead of the CHADS2 instead of the CHA2DS2-VASc?

Minor Essential Revisions.
1. The reader could be confused with the term anticoagulants vs antithrombotics. Please clarify in the discussion section.

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'