

Editor's Comment:

Manuscript Number: 2017/AJMAH/35798

Title: "Epidemiological analysis of infective endocarditis at the Gold Coast area health service"

Type: Original research article

After reviewing the revised manuscript, all critiques, reports, and feedbacks pertinent to manuscript above submitted to AJMH, below are my editorial note and final decision on the manuscript:

Response to Reviewers' Notes:**Feedback-1:**

Adequate response. Figures created.

Feedback-2:

Adequate response. Analytical data in addition to descriptive work included. There was an attempt to improve the statistical analysis, but some defaults are still present as I will point out in my own notes later.

Feedback-3:

Reviewer's note on results and discussion section arrangement has been explained.

Number writing pitfalls still found in some texts.

Editor's Notes on the Revised Manuscript:

	Position	Text	Notes
1	Title		Why not include the name of the country where the research took place? Australia? Not everybody knows that Gold Coast is in Australia.
2	Abstract and other parts of text		Please space out wording after periods and full-stops, especially in abstract.
3	All text		Please unify the method of writing full names and words and their acronyms in text. The rule is to spell out in extended form all names or terminologies the first time they appear in text with their abbreviated form next to them in parenthesis, then they can be addressed as acronyms. Even including a list of abbreviations in text does not waive the need to follow this rule.
4	Line 19, and all over text		Why to capitalize some words which are not names?
5	Line 26, and all over text	 RR-2.71(p=0.037, 95% [CI] 1.0-6.9)	First, the acronym RR should be spelled out fully the first time it appears in text. Second, test statistic would rather be written all within parentheses as follows: (RR= 2.71, p=0.037, 95% CI 1.0-6.9). Also CI should be identified in full the first time it appears, and this should happen in the methodology as we will point out later.

6	Line 34	MSSA	Why only mention MSSA in acronym while not mentioning the acronym MRSA where appropriate, which is more important?
7	Line 45	ICE-PCS	What is this? Please spell out the title of this study first time and then use acronym.
8	Line 60	 Duke's criteria	Insert reference for tis diagnostic approach. I would also rather suggest you give a hint about it either in the literature review or here in methodology/inclusion criteria.
9	Line 64	Data was collected	True data can be single and pleural but in research it is more common to address this term in pleural, so say data were.
10	Line 68	, index hospital stay....	, and index hospital stay....
11	Lines 91 Line 94	18 (15%) 8%	Don not start a paragraph with a digital number. Spell it out.
12	Line 113	The relative risk (RR) of mortality with HF was 2.83(p=0.02, 95% [CI] 1.1-6.7).	Now after RR would be mentioned in full form earlier in text, you will not need to write its acronym between brackets here. Also, make sure you have identified the acronym HF the first time it had appeared in text, otherwise, identify it here.
13	Line 115	RR=2.71(95% [CI].1-7.0, P=0.04)	Remove the period after [CI]
14	Methodology		So deficient. It lacks many things, especially statistical analysis plan. Authors should explain to reviewers their statistical analysis approached, how descriptive data findings would be expressed e.g., categorical data as count and percentage, and continuous data as value $\pm$ standard deviation (SD), or median and interquartile range (IQR), where appropriate. They also need to tell us what analytical statistical techniques would be utilized for the dependent outcome variable(s) in association with selected independent variable(s). In addressing RR with its 95% CI, please mention prior to each test, the test-statistic value, which is mostly here chi-square(df), or Fisher's exact, where appropriate and if given in output. Mention what statistical software was used (and reference or version and trade name) in the analysis. Significance, tolerable error level, strength of association measures utilized, such as the relative risk and why not odds ratio, the 95% confidence interval, as well as many other professional statistical analysis and research methodology writing details should be addressed. Please an mention about ethical considerations, IRB approval has to be mentioned clearly. Documents should be ready upon request. Please consult with a professional statistician or epidemiologist experienced in

			writing research methodology and results display to refine your methodology and statistical analysis plan.
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Otherwise, the topic is excellent, and the research includes so many positive areas, especially aim, lack of knowledge rationalizing conducting the research in that geographical zone. The study limitations are a bright point in the manuscript, too.

As in most clinical research manuscripts I have been critiquing throughout my career, pitfalls and deficiencies lie within areas such as the writing format, the methodology construct and statistical analysis plan, data expression approach, and other research writing techniques professional public health researchers are aware of.

Final Decision:

The manuscript is an addition to the authors' career, the healthcare community in Gold Coast –Australia, the research and healthcare community worldwide, and AJMAH.

I would recommend publishing this manuscript after the minor changes I have requested have been taken care of, and I would be happy to look up the feedback from the authors.

Editor's Details:

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