

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Rapid mortality surveillance of COVID-19 using Verbal Autopsy

Hints and Kinks, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Pedro Souza

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please describe the new method reported in this manuscript, and its purpose.

The authors compared a specific model of verbal autopsy (the InterVA CRMS model by WHO) with the ultrasound-guided minimally invasive autopsies (MIA-US), in order to find its sensitivity, specificity, and most reliable cutoff.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and advantages.

As an advantage, the authors could compare the InterVA CRMS Verbal Autopsy Model with the best exam available during the pandemic, which was the MIA-US. As a limitation, we should consider that conventional autopsies still are the gold standard for cause of death certification, having the MIA-US limitations when compared to the gold standard.

Q 3 Are there objective errors or fundamental flaws? If yes, please detail your concerns.

There are no objective errors or fundamental flaws.

Q 4 Check List

Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes.

Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner, including the primary manuscript(s) that describe the methodology?

Yes.

Are the quantitative or qualitative methods sufficiently explained and documented?

Yes.

Are the quantitative methods valid and correctly applied? (e.g. sample size, choice of test)

Yes.

Are the qualitative methods valid and correctly applied? (e.g. sample selection, method of data collection)

Yes.

Are the data underlying the study available in either the article, supplement, or deposited in a repository?

Yes.

Does the study adhere to ethical standards including ethics committee approval and consent procedure?

Yes.

Q 5 Please provide your detailed review report to the editor and authors (including any comments on the Q4 Check List):

The manuscript addresses a pertinent theme which is the challenge of estimate the COVID-19 pandemic burden in low-income countries. It compares the "InterVA CRMS verbal autopsy model" by WHO with the ultrasound-guided minimally invasive autopsies, which is the best exam available during the pandemic, once the conventional autopsies were generally suspended. The results are clearly exposed with data, tables, and figures, and the discussion approaches honest advantages and limitations of the study. Therefore, we recommend the publishing of the report.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 6 Rigor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 7 Method validated by effective results	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q 8 Applicability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q 9 Significance to the field	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q 10 Interest to a general audience	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q 11 Quality of the writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REVISION LEVEL

Q 12 what is the level of revision required based on your comments:

Minor revisions.