

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Please find the attached Word File (see below).

1. Results:

The outcome named “Age and hospital readmissions”: The authors pooled 3 studies (i.e., Dong 2017, Jain 2018, and Jang 2020). However, data insertion in the authors’ Figure 2 for Dong 2017 is mistakenly reversed. According to the full text, 143 and 1164 were events and Totals, respectively, for the ≥ 65 age group; NOT <65 (see Screenshot below from the Dong et al. original article DOI: 10.1111/ijcp.12935). If this entry error is corrected, then the overall result for this outcome will not be statistically significant (see corrected forest plot below) and will alter part of the present conclusion.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the valuable suggestion. We have modified the figure and results accordingly.

2. In the “Statistical analysis section,” the authors claim to have used STATA version 14.2 to conduct the analyses; however, the output forest-plot dialogues are from Review-Manager software by Cochrane. Authors might need to be consistent. The two are different software by different companies, and they should be cited/acknowledged properly.

Response: Corrected as suggested.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Major revision

Specific Comments to Authors: I see there are earlier studies in this regard:

<https://err.ersjournals.com/content/29/156/190166>

<https://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-016-0671-x> Therefore the authors are urged to explain more in the introduction why this study is important and what new findings it adds to the literature.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the valuable comments. However, both the studies mentioned by the reviewer are conducted on different set of participants (one in COPD patients and another one with older adults with frailty). Both the studies were not done among pneumonia patients, while our study objective is to focus on risk of readmission among patients with pneumonia. We sincerely hope for reviewer's understanding in this regard.

Besides, please re-write the whole paper in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 checklist, which is much more comprehensive than the 2009 version. All the items and sub-items of PRISMA 2020 should be addressed in the revision. And also do not forget to use the GRADE system to assess the quality of evidence.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the valuable comments. As suggested, we have modified the manuscript as per 2020 checklist and used GRADE system to assess the quality of evidence.

LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REVISED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BY AUTHORS WHO ARE NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).

Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further.

When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

Once this step is completed, the manuscript will be quickly accepted and published online.

Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

Response: Done

EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor:

This manuscript is meta-analysis estimated the effect of various risk factors on the rate of hospital readmissions in patients with pneumonia. please explain more in the introduction why this study is important and what new findings it adds to the literature,

Response: As suggested, we have added more points in introduction section why this study is important.

data insertion in the authors' Figure 2 for Dong 2017 is mistakenly reversed, please check it.

Response: Modified as suggested and corrected the Figure

In the "Statistical analysis section," it was claim to have used STATA version 14.2 to conduct the analyses; however, the output forest-plot dialogues are from Review-Manager software by Cochrane. Please keep consistent.

Response: As suggested, we have changed the software name to RevMan

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, the full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Clinical Cases, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Before final acceptance, uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, "Figure 1 Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...". Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. Authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or

column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

Response: Done

(3) Requirements for Article Highlights: If your manuscript is an Original Study (Basic Study or Clinical Study), Meta-Analysis, or Systemic Review, the “Article Highlights” section is required. Detailed writing requirements for the “Article Highlights” can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

Response: Done

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Response: Done

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Response: Done