

Editor's Comment:

Here are my comments and recommendations concerning the manuscript entitled:
National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) In A District General Hospital, Northern Ireland.

GENERAL COMMENTS : The Authors of the manuscript aimed to evaluate patients' outcomes regarding mortality and morbidity post emergency laparotomies performed in their Daisyhill Hospital and compare them with with national results achieved after implementation of the standards of National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA). Constant audit of clinical practice is an important part of enhancing patient care. The subject of the presented study is interesting, although there are some issues which have to be addressed.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

One of the main problem is the style of the manuscript. There is chaos in the results presentation, so it is not easy to follow and understand some parts of the description and assess the study.

The Authors should avoid abbreviations in the Abstract- they are not explained here and therefore not clear for a reader. There are many unexplained abbreviations throughout the paper (eg. DGH, ASA, P-POSSUM, RAG-rating). As a rule all abbreviations should be explained before their first use.

The Authors claim that the 90-day mortality rate was 0.9% (i.e. 1/112)- but it was 9 of 112.

Also the 30-day post-operative morbidities (Fig. 2) include Crohn's and ulcerative colitis - what needs an explanation- both diseases are not related to post -operative complications. Do the Authors mean a post-operative flare of primary, pre-operative inflammatory bowel disease ? The same about malignancy – I am sure it was not the 30-day surgical complication.

The references should be unified, eg.

1. Díaz, D.D.; Converso, A.; Sharpless, K.B.; Finn, M.G. 2,6-Dichloro-9-thiabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane: Multigram Display of Azide and Cyanide Components on a Versatile Scaffold. *Molecules* 2006, 11, 212–218, doi:10.3390/11040212.

I would like the Authors to be more precise and strict in their statements. The survival was better, but there was no proof for the statistical significance.

What about minor complications ? The Authors should clearly indicate them.

Author's Reply:

Full forms of all abbreviation have been given in the manuscript

The corrections mentioned by the editor have been effected.

References have been unified.