27-May-2021
BMJ-2021-065698.R1
Hospitalisation risk for COVID-19 patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.1.7: cohort analysis

Dear Dr. Nyberg

Thank you for sending us your paper. We sent it for statistical review. We recognise its potential importance and relevance to general medical readers, but I am afraid that we have not yet been able to reach a final decision on it because several important aspects of the work still need clarifying.

We hope very much that you will be willing and able to revise your paper as explained below in the report from our statistical advisor, so that we will be in a better position to understand your study and decide whether the BMJ is the right journal for it. We are looking forward to reading the revised version and, we hope, reaching a decision.

When you return your revised manuscript, please note that The BMJ requires an ORCID ID for corresponding authors of all research articles. If you do not have an ORCID ID, registration is free and takes a matter of seconds.

Yours sincerely,

Wim Weber
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To start your revision, please click this link or log in to your account: *** PLEASE NOTE: This is a two-step process. After clicking on the link, you will be directed to a webpage to confirm. ***

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First, please revise your paper to respond to all of the comments by the reviewers. Their reports are available at the end of this letter, below.

In your response please provide, point by point, your replies to the comments made by the reviewers and the editors, explaining how you have dealt with them in the paper.

** Comments from the external peer reviewers**

Reviewer: 1

Recommendation:
Comments:
I would like to thank the authors for addressing my comments. The exclusion of a battery of related methodologies to analyse the data in preference of the 'primary analysis' is much preferred in terms of conciseness of the manuscript. The added detail in the methods section about this 'chosen' analytical approach also improved the manuscript - it becomes much clearer what was actually done.

Some very minor comments:

1) I think Fig 1 would benefit from better y-axis labels.
2) Section 3.3. on mortality - you provide HR's for 'hospitalisations'. I presume you mean mortality here.
3) You mention that the PH assumption is violated in many of these analyses. Would you like to comment on this in the discussion - what 'potential' implications does this have on presented results. I think readers need to be assured that the estimates you provide are as 'reasonable' as they can be based on the analysis undertaken and this violation.

I don't need to see this again. Congratulations on this work.

Additional Questions:
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