

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Inter-rater agreement of the triagesystem REETS-HEV

Louise Nissen^{1*}, Hans Kirkegaard², Noel Perez¹, Ulf Hørlyck¹, Louise Pape³

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Background

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the inter-rater agreement among nurses using the triage system REETS-HEV (rapid emergency triage and treatment system-hospitalsenheden vest) in a Danish ED.

The use of triage systems in Denmark has recently been implemented together with structural changes in hospital organization. Testing and evaluation is therefore needed. The REETS-HEV is a five scale triage system being used in the Emergency department (ED) of Herning, Denmark since May 2010. The ED is semi-large with 29,000 annual visits.

Methods

Consecutive patients presenting to the ED were assessed by both a duty and study nurse using REETS-HEV. Nurses did not receive training prior to the study. 146 patients were enrolled and a blinded, paired and simultaneous triage was conducted independently to evaluate inter-rater agreement using Fleiss kappa.

Results

A total of 155 patients were triaged over a 10 day period and complete data were available for 146 patients. We found the overall agreement to be good (Fleiss kappa 0.60 (0.48; 0.72)). The kappa estimate was higher for the group of patients needing immediate attention (0.83 (0.18;1.47)).

Conclusion

The study demonstrated good inter-rater agreement between two independent observers not receiving any new triage training prior to the study.

Authors' details

¹Emergency Department, Regionshospital Herning hospital, Denmark. ²Research Center for Emergency Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark. ³Dept. of Occupational Medicine, Regional Hospital Herning, Denmark.

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* Correspondence: louisenissen84@gmail.com

¹Emergency Department, Regionshospital Herning hospital, Denmark
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article