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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56493

Title: Navigating the Grey: Capacity, Consent, and the Emergency Physician's Dilemma

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ **Accept after minor revision.....**
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- The study addresses a critical and under-explored area relating to legal and ethical challenges faced by emergency physicians regarding patient consent in India.
- The multi-center, cross-sectional design enhances the generalizability of the findings across diverse hospital settings.
- The use of a validated, structured questionnaire reviewed by experts ensures clarity and relevance.
- The inclusion of both knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) offers a comprehensive assessment.
- The statistical methods employed (Chi-square tests, logistic regression) are appropriate for the data and research questions.
- The findings highlight significant gaps in legal understanding and documentation practices, offering actionable insights for policy and education.

Weaknesses of the Study

- There is no mention of whether the study was registered or pre-registered, which could raise questions about potential research bias.
- The sample size (120 physicians) may be relatively small considering India's large and diverse medical community, potentially affecting representativeness.
- The data collection relies on self-reporting, which may introduce social desirability bias.
- The analysis is primarily descriptive and associative; causal inferences or longitudinal assessments are lacking.
- There is limited discussion on the validity and reliability of the questionnaire beyond face validity.
- The study does not specify the exact ethical approval details including approval number or the institution from which clearance was obtained.
- The discussion on legal frameworks sometimes lacks critical analysis of specific Indian legislation and case law, which could enhance contextual understanding.
- Occasional grammatical inconsistencies and awkward phrasing impact overall readability.
- The presentation of tables, figures, or supplementary data could be improved for clarity.

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Reviewer Comments

- **Title and Abstract:** The title accurately reflects the content, emphasizing the dilemma faced by emergency physicians. The abstract provides a clear overview of background, methods, results, and conclusions, but could benefit from more precise statistical data (e.g., percentages or significance values).
- **Introduction and Objectives:** The introduction contextualizes capacity and consent well, but the objectives could be explicitly stated earlier to guide the reader clearly on the study's aims.
- **Methodology and Statistical Analysis:** The methodology is sufficiently described; however, details about the questionnaire validation process and pilot study are sparse. The statistical analysis methods are appropriate but should include mention of how reliability and validity of the questionnaire were ensured.
- **Results and Discussion:** Results are well-organized and substantiate the claims with relevant statistics. The discussion thoughtfully interprets findings in the context of existing literature, highlighting the knowledge gap and the need for training. However, there is occasional over-reliance on descriptive statistics, and deeper inferential analysis could strengthen conclusions.
- **Conclusion and Implications:** The conclusion appropriately emphasizes the need for policy change and training. It is well-aligned with the results but could elaborate more on practical implementation strategies.
- **Ethical Clearance:** The paper states that IRB approval was obtained and principles of the Declaration of Helsinki were followed. However, the approval authority and approval number are not specified, which is essential for transparency.
- **Language and Typographical Errors:** Overall, the manuscript is well-written but contains minor grammatical and typographical errors (e.g., inconsistent formatting, awkward sentences). These should be corrected for clarity.
- **Tables, Figures, Formatting, References:** Tables are appropriately referenced; however, formatting consistency should be checked. References are comprehensive but should follow a uniform citation style throughout.