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Methodological Issues on the Importance of Instrument Validation in Cross-Sectional Health Research

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Received: September 18, 2019

Accepted: December 12, 2019

Please cite this paper as:

Amir-Behghadami M, Gholizadeh M, Janati A. Methodological Issues on the Importance of Instrument Validation in Cross-Sectional Health Research. *Bull Emerg Trauma*. 2020;8(1):49-50. doi: 10.29252/beat-080109.

Dear Editor,

Recently, we read with great interest the article authored by Jadidi *et al.* [1] that was entitled “Is emergency medical services (EMS) in Islamic Republic of Iran practical and efficient in facing Ebola?” and published in *Bull Emerg Trauma* in 2019, in 7th volume and 3rd issue. First of all, we would like to extend our gratitude to the authors of this article. Although the mentioned study was appropriate and valuable, there was a fundamental flaw in the method, which has led to an ambiguous interpretation of the findings. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to raise concerns about the data collection instrument and emphasize the importance of reporting its validity and reliability in cross-sectional studies.

In the mentioned study, the authors evaluated the efficacy and preparedness of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Islamic Republic of Iran to face

Ebola [1]. In this regard, either a new instrument is designed or an existing instrument is used [2, 3]. If they had used an existing instrument, they would have to be culturally adapted before being used in the Iranian context. However, it is unclear whether they have developed a new instrument for their evaluations or have used the available instrument, and it is necessary to report its validity and reliability indicators.

Guidelines like the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) [4] or STROBE-ME [5] have been developed to guide researchers on criteria that may assist in conducting their own research. Hence, in order to be more clear, it is recommended that researchers to conduct their studies in accordance with the STROBE statement, as its use decreases the risk of flawed reporting and increases the quality.

Conflicts of Interest: None declared.

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