

**Table 2 Factors influencing triage decisions according to emergency department (ED) staff**

Studied factor	Influence on triage decisions (% of participants)	Remarks
<b><i>Clinical condition of the patient</i></b>	98	Yes
Significance of patient history	49	Yes
Potential for treatment	28	Yes
Mechanism of injury	15	Yes
Potential for self-discharge	2	Yes
<b><i>Operational factors in ED</i></b>	2	Yes
ED activity levels	3	Equivocal
Medical skill mix	2	Yes
Nursing skill mix	1	Yes
<b><i>Other factors</i></b>		
Type of hospital*	0	No effect
Triage nurse experience	0	No effect
ED activity	0	No effect

\*Teaching, non-teaching, rural, private.

Sources: Richardson, 1998 [38]; Whitby et al., 1997 [39].