Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pre-hypertension in Uganda: a cross-sectional study

Authors:

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Version: 2 Date: 11 October 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report
Title: Pre-hypertension in Uganda: a cross-sectional study
Version: 1 Date: 25 September 2013
Reviewer: Martin Paul
Reviewer's report:
The study appears to be the first to study hypertension and prehypertension in Uganda and adds to our knowledge on high blood pressure in Non-Western countries. The methodology is straightforward and the data are presented and discussed appropriately. Appreciated. Thank you for this comment.
I have some minor comments and requests for revision:
1) more information should be presented on the methodology of blood pressure recordings. Was there a resting period before the first blood pressure measurement has been taken. Did the authors account for white-coat hypertension? The resting period has been added (page 3). The blood pressure was taken at people’s homes (page 3).
2) smoking as a risk factors. Other studies (such as Wang and Wang, 2004, which is cited and discussed in your study) investigating high blood pressure prevalence and smoking also used the rate of current smokers for the analysis. The current study only addresses whether subjects ever smoked. Are data on current smokers available? We have deleted ever smoked/consumed alcohol and used current smoking/drinking throughout the manuscript (pages 1-6 and tables 1,3,4).
3) diet: more emphasis should be given in the discussion on the potential influence in diet, in particular when comparing these data with those of african-americans. How is the dietary (calories, Sodium intake, etc.) of an Ugandan diet (eventually differentiated between urban and non-urban individuals). Please cite other studies investigating this. (These issues have been highlighted in the discussion (page 6).
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published (done throughout the manuscript).
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I have nothing to declare.

Reviewer's report
Title: Pre-hypertension in Uganda: a cross-sectional study
Version: 1 Date: 22 September 2013
Reviewer: Pei-Shan Tsai
Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The selection of predictors is not explained or justified. There remain other important factors that were not accounted for in the analysis. (Explanation and justification been added see page 3 at end of introduction).
2. The definitions of some important predictors are lacking or lack of clarity. For example, tobacco consumption and alcohol consumption were not based on the amount of tobacco or alcohol consumed but rather based a single yes-no question. Similarly, physical activity was not defined. (Physical activity now defined see page 4. Tobacco and alcohol use was based on no and yes and in accordance with the other review have now used current rather than past use see page 4: see comment 2 of the other reviewer).

3. The findings are not new. However, it is perhaps the first report of the prevalence and associated factors of prehypertension in the Uganda population. I would suggest presenting these findings in a short report or a letter form. (Because this is the first report in the country, a full manuscript is justified to serve as a future reference material). A short report or letter would not give good enough information.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published (language corrections done throughout the manuscript)
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.