Reviewer's report

Title: Poor Prognostic Factors among Nigerians admitted with Heart Failure: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Christian Torp-Pedersen

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The aim of this study was to examine indicators of poor outcome for patients admitted with heart failure in a Nigerian hospital. Patients admitted with heart failure in a teaching hospital over 6 months were registered. Patients were examined for known predictors of poor outcome including hyponatremia, low left ventricular ejection fraction, anemia and renal impairment. The main finding of the study was that indicators of poor outcome were common.

Major comments:

1. It is not possible to understand how the population was defined. Does the hospital have regional uptake or do the patients represent a selected subset of Nigerian patients. Does the young age of the patients for example represent selection or does it represent possibly highly interesting differences from other countries.

2. Hypertension and post partum cardiomyopathy were common etiologies, but with the apparent high prevalence of hypertension, could the highly frequent post partum cardiomyopathy actually reflect hypertension? Ischemic heart disease was found in significant numbers, but how was the diagnosis established?

3. Major focus in this paper is put on poor prognostic signs but many reflect characteristics that are highly dependent on treatment including hyponatremia and a high resting heart rate. Do the findings reflect severe heart failure or no treatment at the time of admission.

Minor comments:

4. The paper needs a language workover. To start with the title this study does not address poor prognostic factors but excellent prognostic factors that characterize a poor outcome.

Conclusion: Most studies of prevalence of heart failure are from industrialized
countries and studies of prevalence in other countries is of high interest. My suggestion to the authors is to give the reader insight into how representative the patients are of heart failure patients in Nigeria and focus on causes of heart failure rather than on prognostic factors that are highly dependent on treatment.

What next? Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Statistical review No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests I have no competing interests