Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of Prehypertension and its Relationship to Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Jamaica: Analysis from a Cross-Sectional Survey

Authors:

Trevor S Ferguson (trevor.ferguson02@uwimona.edu.jm)
Novie O Younger (novie.younger@uwimona.edu.jm)
Marshall K Tulloch-Reid (marshall.tullochreid@uwimona.edu.jm)
Marilyn B Lawrence Wright (marilyn.lawrencewright@uwimona.edu.jm)
Elizabeth M Ward (warde@moh.gov.jm)
Deanna E Ashley (deca@cwjamaica.com)
Rainford J Wilks (rainfordw@cwjamaica.com)

Version: 3 Date: 3 June 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewers
Manuscript #1589799913176674
Prevalence of Prehypertension and its Relationship to Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Jamaica: Analysis from a Cross-Sectional Survey

Reviewer Itamar Grotto

We thank the reviewer for his helpful comments which have assisted us in strengthening the manuscript. The specific responses to the comments are as follows.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. We have repeated the analyses with sex stratification now shown in Table 3
2. The Results in Table 5 have been incorporated with those of Table 3 as suggested. Sex-specific clustering of 1, 2 or 3+ risk factors have been included in Table 3. The prevalence estimates for the CVD risk factors are reported in Table 2. These have been weighted to the age/sex distribution of the population from which the sample was drawn as stated in the Methods.
3. In the multivariate analysis (Table 4), the odds ratios for diabetes mellitus and hypercholesterolaemia were adjusted for age, sex and body mass index in the previous draft. In addition we have now adjusted the measures of obesity (overweight, obesity, increased waist circumference and increased waist/hip ratio) for presence of diabetes and hypercholesterolaemia.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Further details have been added to the Methods to more clearly explain the logistic regression analysis
2. We omitted Table 1a but have incorporated a ‘Total’ column in the new Table 1 along with the BP category specific means.
3. The number of participants in each age group is now shown in Figure 1.
4. The Title of Table now indicates that the odds ratios are derived from a multivariate model and the components of the models are outlined in the footnotes.
5. Blood pressure estimates were not derived from a single measurement but from the mean of the 2nd and 3rd of three measurements, albeit at a single occasion. This is now stated in the Methods.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Details of the multivariate analysis have been included in the Methods have been mentioned in the Abstract.
2. We have included the recent study from Israel and have ‘and/or’ for ‘or’ in reference to the definition of prehypertension.
3. We have separately analyzed the subgroups of the prehypertension category and will consider addressing this in another manuscript.
4. We have included p-values for trend for prehypertension prevalence with age in the text of the Results.
5. We have decided against reporting “rate ratios” as we have reported adjusted odds ratios in Table 4.
6. We have included data on low physical activity as suggested.

Reviewer Gerald A. C. Grell

We thank the reviewer for his kind comments.