Author's response to reviews

Title: Acute kidney injury among adult patients admitted with sepsis in a low income country: Clinical pattern and short term outcomes.

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Version: 4
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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Acute Kidney Injury among adult patients admitted with sepsis in a low income country: Clinical pattern and short term outcomes.

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Version: 3  Date: 29th September 2014

Author's response to reviews: See over leaf
Reviewer's report

Title: Acute kidney injury among adult patients admitted with sepsis in a low income country: Clinical pattern and short term outcomes.

Version: 3 Date: 1 September 2014

Reviewer: Bernard Jaar

Response to the Reviewer's report

Dear Dr. Jaar and the Editorial Board of BMC Nephrology,

We are very grateful for your kind consideration of our manuscript. We have made changes as listed below to address all the concerns that were raised. We hope you will find them satisfactory.

1- Title: please change the title to the following:
Acute Kidney Injury among Adult Patients with Sepsis in a Low-Income Country: Clinical Pattern and Short-Term Outcomes.

The title has been changed and now reads as stated above.

2- Key Words: please add “AKIN”

Done

3- References: references should be numbered in the order they are cited in the manuscript. For example, in the introduction, the authors jump from reference 3 to reference 18.

References have been edited and are now arranged in proper order.

4- There is a typo on page 4, first line: “The hospital is in a resource-limited setting …”

Changes have been made and the line now reads “The hospital is resource limited consequently most…….”

5- The authors stated that “Written informed consent was obtained from all study participants”. What about patients too sick to give consent. Was consent obtained from the next of kin? Please clarify.

This has been clarified and a new line has been added reading “For the very sick patients the next of kin was identified and informed consent obtained from them.”

6- Similarly, the authors stated that “We interviewed participants using a structured questionnaire …” Were there any patients with change in mental status, too sick, to be interviewed? Please clarify.

This has been appropriately clarified and a new line reading “For patients with a reduced level of consciousness or unable to answer questions because of severe illness, answers were sought from the next of kin.”

7- There is a typo on page 5, third line of the first paragraph, the word “using” is written twice.

The typo has been corrected.
8- Under statistical analysis: please clarify which software was used to conduct the analyses. Consider conducting multivariable analyses using the most important variables such as age, gender, presence of HIV and diabetes. I understand the sample size is small but it would be good to report some “independent” variables associated with the outcomes. STATA version 12 was used to conduct the analysis. A multivariate analysis has been added with “independent” variables associated with the outcome. Gender and presence of HIV showed no association at bivariate level to the outcome we therefore did not use them. Only 3 patients had diabetes alone and 8 had both hypertension and diabetes which was a very small number to be considered for analysis.

9- On page 6, under demographics, in the first sentence, please report how many patients were screened as you have already reported in figure 1. This figure (1596) has been quoted in the text.
10- In Table 1, please provide how many patients had a history of diabetes and hypertension. Also, please provide the distribution of AKIN stages. How many patients had AKIN stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3. This information could be useful in Table 1.

A row showing chronic illnesses in the patients recruited has been included in Table 1 and these include patients who had either diabetes or hypertension or both.

Another row showing AKIN stages 1, 2 and 3 has also been included.

11- On page 6, under results in the text, please provide the odds ratio before the confidence intervals.

This has been done.

12- On page 7, first paragraph, the following sentence should be in the discussion section: “Access to ICU and dialysis was not possible because …. Space was not available because of the limited number of beds.”

The sentence has been removed as requested and the reasons for reduced access to ICU and Dialysis are now talked about in the discussion section.

13- On page 7, last paragraph, when referring to other authors’ work, no need to state the year. Please delete 1990 and 2010 in this paragraph.

The years have been deleted as requested.

Thank you very much for reviewing our work we look forward to hearing from soon.