Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluating the effectiveness of opportunistic eye screening model for people with Diabetes attending Diabetes clinic at Mnazi Mmoja hospital, Zanzibar

Version: 2 Date: 30 March 2014

Reviewer: Shao Onn O Yong

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1) Pg 6, Line 1: Systemic parameters such as blood sugar levels, BP, BMI etc were measured and recorded as part of the study and it is well established that raised BP and obesity are found in tandem with diabetes. For the purpose of this paper, it would perhaps be more instructive to attempt to correlate these with the incidence or severity of diabetic retinopathy rather than to simply document that they co-exist in diabetic patients.

2) Pg 6, Line 22: Fundus examination using a 20D lens and indirect ophthalmoscopy perhaps may not be the best way to examine the retina for neovascular changes, and would, in my opinion, severely underestimate the incidence of mild NPDR as well as diabetic macular oedema. This is a significant limitation of this study, and should at least be recognized as such. While this may be understandable given the constraints placed by resources, perhaps a more feasible alternative might have been to use slit-lamp biomicroscopy with a 78D lens to examine the posterior pole in addition to the BIO examination.

3) Pg 7, Line 19: There is no mention in either the Methods Section or the Results Section how these 356 subjects were recruited. Was this an entirely random process? Were all 967 patients who attended at the Diabetes clinic approached for enrollment? This would shed some light on any recruitment bias in this study.

4) Pg 8, Line 17: ‘A total of 206/356 (57.9%) subjects reported having experienced eye problems at the time of the interview’. There is no mention of what these ‘eye problems’ constitute. This information is presumably obtained from the patients’ questionnaire, and it would have been helpful to have included the questionnaire as an addendum to the manuscript.

5) Pg 9, Line 1: ‘Cataract was diagnosed in 178 eyes and high IOP > 21 mmHg in 59 eyes.’ Again, a classification of the severity of the cataracts, and the extent of glaucomatous optic neuropathy encountered should be specified.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 declare that I have no competing interests