Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of Diabetic Retinopathy in Tehran Province: A Population-Based Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Journal editors

We are thankful for sending us new reviewer's suggestions. We also thank the referees who reviewed our manuscript again. New revised parts are highlighted in green. In addition, as one of the reviewers could not re-review the manuscript, we re-checked his original comments and highlighted the related parts in yellow regarding his previous comments. A point to point response to the concerns of the referees follows:

First reviewer (Dr Jill E Keeffe)

According to the respected referee’s comment, in the result section of the abstract and Table 1, the percentages on the prevalence of retinopathy now include numbers with denominators as well.

We initially intended to report "high risk retinopathy" in patients with PDR to demonstrate the proportion of patients who needed urgent treatment at the time they were visited in our survey. May be we should have stated 'high risk PDR" instead of "high risk retinopathy". However, since we used a standard definition for "vision threatening retinopathy" including sever NPDR; we omitted the term "high risk retinopathy" and replaced it with "vision threatening retinopathy" through the manuscript, to prevent any confusion which is also in agreement with the review’s comment.

Second reviewer (Dr Rajiv Khandekar):

1. The manuscript has been grammatically re-checked by an expert editor and the certification is attached.

2. We have already discussed this unusual finding in our manuscript, we highlighted the related paragraph (Para4 in discussion section)

3. In fact in the original draft of our manuscript results were not stratified by sex. However one of the reviewer's previous comments was to do so. The revised manuscript therefore contained two versions of the Table 2 (2A and 2B). The former includes much more details and may therefore be confusing. We prefer to keep Table 2B (now Table 2) only, this is also what the reviewer prefers.
Third reviewer (Dr Mohsen Janghorbani)

1. Hypertension had been recorded qualitatively (absent/present) in our study, and the blood pressure > 140/90 mmHg was considered as the presence of HTN which was as same as some previous studies (references #25-26 and 45 in the manuscript), so we could not perform a new analysis based on HTN=130/85.

2. We did our best to complete the required data in the method section.

3. Men and women are presented separately in Tables 1 and 2.

4. The percentages had been revised according to the reviewer's opinion.

5. Table 3 had been changed as dear referee’s comment.

6. A complete list of covariates entered in logistic regression had been stated in statistical analysis section.

7. In Table 1 and 2, P-values for comparing men and women had been added.

8. Age and sex specific prevalences had been presented in Table 1.

9. The mentioned references had been added.

10. We had explained the reason for accuracy of DM prevalence in our previous cover letter.

11. The language of manuscript was re-checked in the latest revised manuscript and the certification is attached.

We would like to ask the editor in chief specifically about the third reviser's comments in the re-review of our manuscript. Please note that no specific comment has been made and all previous comments had already been addressed. We therefore are a little confused about any additional change and would like the editor to make a decision in this regard.

Finally, I do appreciate all the referee's concerns in precise evaluation of our study and I hope the answers would comply with your opinions.

Sincerely

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