Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes mellitus type 2 in urban Ghana: characteristics and associated factors

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Reviewer: Sargoor Veena

Reviewer's report:

This unmatched case-control hospital based study investigates the clinical, anthropometric, socio-economic, nutritional and behavioural characteristics among urban Ghanian adult population with or without diabetes and hypertension and the factors associated with these outcomes.

The paper is generally well-written. However I have some criticisms and concerns on some sections of the manuscript (specified below).

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract

Results section:
1. Mention the cut off limits to define overweight, central obesity, hypertriglyceridaemia and hypercholesterolaemia.
2. Author mentions that Diabetes was independently associated with various factors but they have not mentioned independent of what?

Method
1. Recruitment procedures and examinations:
   1st paragraph-Simplify the method of selection of controls to make it more reader friendly.
   2nd paragraph-What is the rationale for measuring axillary temperature and tuning fork test?
2. Anthropometrical examinations and nutritional interviews
   1st paragraph- Give the detailed methods-for first 2 sentences
   2nd paragraph-mention what micro- and macro- nutrients were calculated.
3. Definitions
   What protocol is used to define diabetes?

Statistical Methods
1. Mention about the distribution of variables

Results
1. Table 1 is too big. Shorten it. No need to repeat the value of results given in
the table again in the text. Interpret the results of table 1 and give the values wherever necessary if not presented in the table. For gender give values for both male and female. Likewise for binary variables give values for both in the table so that it is easier to understand. Mention the units of variables in parentheses in the table. Include height in Table 1 (anthropometry).

2. What is the rationale for giving Table 2? I do not think this table is necessary. It can be given as a supplementary table if necessary.

3. Table 3 Mention the units of variables and the cut off either in parentheses or in the foot note. Consistency needs to be considered.

4. Over all the results section needs reduction in the content to make the section more reader friendly and all the tables needs proper formatting with proper heading, and footnotes to understand without reference to the text.

Discussion

1. Overall discussion has covered all the points. It would be useful if they mention about the characteristics related to diabetes and hypertension in this population comparing to other developing countries and developed countries.

- Minor Essential Revisions
Check for typos and English language throughout the manuscript

- Discretionary Revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'