Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology and awareness of hypertension in a rural Ugandan community: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: swapnil hiremath

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Kotwani and colleagues report on an interesting epidemiologic survey from the Kakyere parish in Uganda. The main results are the prevalence of HT, which is quite similar to US and UK, after adjustment for age, and the low rates of awareness, treatment and control. The results are internally valid and appear sound, however I have a few minor comments below.

Minor essential:
1. The population of the parish is 6500, however, the proportion of adults which are eligible for this survey seems to be about 3510 (65% of 3510 is 2282 which is the sample of this survey). This number should be stated to make the numbers sensible.

Discretionary:
1. In their previous paper, (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22916256) from exactly one year before, and from the same Kakyere parish, the prevalence of HT was quite high at 28% (645). It has now dropped to 15.7%, almost by half. Admittedly, the definition of HT may be more precise in the present survey, with the correct cuff size and three measurements; nevertheless this is a dramatic change and some discussion of this would be valuable.

2. From the same paper above, if 645 individuals were found to be hypertensive, how do only 224 identify themselves as hypertensive only a year later? This could be either due to high migration rates, a difference in the sample (statistically unlikely given ~65-70% sampling of the population but possible give the difference in gender proportions in the two studies) or lastly, if the individuals were not told or did not understand that they had hypertension from the first study. Only the researchers can explain which of these reasons is most plausible.

3. Self reported hypertension from Table 2 is seen in 224 individuals, but awareness of HT is reported as being amongst 135. Does that mean that of the 224, 135 were reported as being aware based on BP measurement or being on a BP medication and that the remaining 89 were not truly HTive?

4. The finding of the negative association between HIV and HT is intriguing, given that it seems to have been reported before and is consistent finding. Would adjustment for HIV prevalence suggest that the prevalence of HT is even higher?
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests