Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Differences in hypertension between informal and formal areas of Ouagadougou, a sub-Saharan African city

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear editor,

We thank very much all those who have evaluated our manuscript entitled “Differences in hypertension between informal and formal areas of Ouagadougou, a sub-Saharan African city” and we hereby provide answers to questions.

Our paper focuses on identifying population risk factors and vulnerable groups for mass prevention of hypertension following G Rose on the strategy of preventive medicine. Our study adds to the current literature by unveiling the increased prevalence among migrants from rural Burkina Faso to urban Ouagadougou and among unmarried women. In addition to improved clinical management of hypertensive patients, prevention by acting on population risk factors at the societal level is needed for the whole population and particularly for those two vulnerable groups in order to avert the hypertension epidemic in Western Africa.

Editor's comment:
"As a reviewer suggested, it is essential to provide data on detection, treatment and control in the revised manuscript."

Response: Data on detection have been provided now in the text. Lack of data on treatment and control remains as a limitation that we have discussed in the manuscript. However, we have added a recent reference stating that in Ouagadougou less than half of the hypertensive persons were on antihypertensive medication.

Reviewer: alfonso otero gonzalez

Reviewer's report:

Rating epidemiological research work "in hypertension Differences Between Formal and Informal areas of Ouagadougou, to sub-Saharan African city":

1 - Methodology.'s : So selected sample is adequate and statistical analysis

2 - Results: They are very interesting and descriptive of the area.

Conclusion: I think it can be admitted for publication

Response: The referee 1 did not ask questions and we thank him for his interest and appreciation of our work
Reviewer: Andre Pascal A Kengne

Reviewer's report:

This study report on urban rural differences in the prevalence and determinants of hypertension in Burkina Faso.

The study is based on a large sample, which is a major strength. However, the study as currently presented is short of novelty. Although any new data on prevalence of hypertension and other chronic diseases in Africa is useful, the contribution of such data would be enhanced by putting them in the local context for detection, treatment and control, which is what the current study failed to achieve. I would therefore strongly advise the investigators to update the manuscript by integrating data on the detection, treatment and control of hypertension in their sample; and provide an interpretation in the context of local prevention efforts.

Response: We thank the referee 2 for his relevant comments. Now data on detection (27.4% (95% CI, 22.9-31.9)) has been provided in the manuscript. Lack of data on treatment and control remains as limitation that we discuss in the manuscript; However, we have added a reference stating that in Ouagadougou less than half of the hypertensive persons were on antihypertensive medication.

Also we suggest in the manuscript prevention actions that will focus on mass prevention by acting on the risk factors identified by our research, in order to prevent hypertension in addition to improving detection and clinical management of hypertensive patients.

We hope to have answered all the questions asked and remain available for any useful purpose.

Best regards.

Boukaré DOULOUGOU
Montreal, August 7th, 2014