Reviewer's report

Title: Analysis on associated factors of uncontrolled hypertension among elderly hypertensive patients in southern China: a community-based, cross-sectional survey

Version: 2
Date: 26 May 2014

Reviewer: YONG-MOON PARK

Reviewer's report:

This is a community-based cross-sectional study of the factors associated with uncontrolled hypertension in a 10,644 Chinese elderly population. The key findings were that the control of hypertension was 34.5%, and that uncontrolled hypertension was associated with older ages, living in rural places and suburban places, low education attainment, having family history of hypertension, smoking, excessive salt intake, lack of physical activity, overweight, obese, abdominal obesity, and diabetes. The strengths of the study include a well-designed sampling method and a comprehensive evaluation of covariates.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The main weakness is that this study did not reflect the recent JNC 8 Hypertension Guidelines, especially for the BP goal of less than 150/90mmHg for hypertensive persons aged 60 years or older. For the purpose of comparing the control rate with the previous studies, the results from the cutoff of 140/90mmHg could be added. However, the final results should be presented based on the cutoff of 150/90mmHg to define the control rate of hypertension, which means that methods, results, and discussion related to this updated guideline should be totally revised.

2. Lack of information about the medication which the subjects diagnosed with hypertension were taking would be an additional limitation.

3. In the methods, the participation rate of 96.7% is not likely to be the overall participation rate of this study. This rate should be based on the proportion of the participants among the number of source population.

4. In the results of abstract, we cannot say “the risk” in a cross-sectional study. Only the association could be mentioned.

Minor Essential Revisions

5. In multivariable logistic regression analyses, the adjusted variables need to be specified. In addition, adjusted ORs that were not significant also need to be presented.

Discretionary Revisions

6. In tables, tenths decimal digit for the percentage would be enough, except some biochemical measurements.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.