Reviewer's report

Title: Hypertension and associated factors among university students in Gondar, Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study

Version: 4 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: Pietro Amedeo Modesti

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The manuscript by Alemu and Tadesse (DRAFT 2) is improved. However the main issue regarding the study population still remains. From the Authors' response: “The reason we didn’t include the subjects who are taking anti-hypertension medication is the medication may alter the blood pressure of the subjects at the moments of data collection so this affects the correlation of the high bp with the potential causes.”

This is not a reason to exclude people taking anti-hypertension medication from study population. Treated hypertension, as well as hypertension control are not explored in the present study. Hypertensive patients found in the study is part of the total hypertensive population (the total number is unknown). As a consequence these results cannot be compared with previous studies exploring hypertension prevalence in Africa.

Should the Authors desire to investigate factors associated with untreated hypertension, this original point of view should be clear from the title, clarified in introduction, and discussed in the final section. No information regarding this aspect is found in the text.

Page 4:

“Participants and data collection

All undergraduate students aged 18 # years of the University of Gondar were the source population. Students who were taking anti-hypertension medication were excluded from the study.”

How students who were taking anti-hypertension medication were checked? Was the answer taken by the WHO STEPS questionnaire? How many students were taking antihypertensive drugs?

The survey does not explore the prevalence of hypertension in the general population of Gondar students rather assessing the prevalence of untreated hypertension. Title is misleading.

Page 5:
Operational definitions
Hypertension: A sustained high blood pressure (SBP #140 or DBP #90mmHg) [3] or reported regular use of anti-hypertensive medication(s).

The definition of hypertension is misleading because students who were taking anti-hypertension medication were excluded. Only UNTREATED hypertension is assessed.