Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of Quality of care given to Diabetic patients at Jimma University Specialized Hospital Diabetic Follow-up clinic, Jimma, Ethiopia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Revision of the Manuscript

1. Authors part, further description of the fourth author was made as below
   
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2. The method part was rewritten with splitting into subtitles with further clarifications of the methods of study and ethical issue. The modified version of this part is depicted below and important changes or additions are put in light blue.

Methods

Study area
This study was conducted from August 29 to November 2, 2009 at Jimma University Specialized Hospital (JUSH), which is a teaching and referral hospital for over 15 million people, located at Jimma town, Southwest Ethiopia. Diabetic clinic is one of the many chronic follow-up clinics of the hospital run twice weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Study population
Participants of this study consisted of patients with diagnosed diabetes mellitus who received their diabetic care at JUSH for at least the last 1 year. At the time of the study there were a total of 1716 diabetic patients (both adult and pediatric patients) on follow-up care at the hospital. Of these, 1353 patients who were >15 years or older and had follow-up for at least 1 year at the clinic were taken as a target population out of which study participants were selected.

Selection of study participants
This is a cross-sectional study that employed a simple random sampling technique. A sample size of 329 patients was obtained using a minimum sample size calculation. The study participants were selected randomly out of those eligible patients who came for their diabetic follow-up until the planned sample size was obtained.
Data collection
Data were collected by interviewing patients and reviewing their medical records simultaneously using structured pre-tested questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of variables used to assess background characteristics, adequacy of glycemic control, adequacy of hypertension management, complications of diabetes and the attempt to manage them, and attitude of patients towards care given to them. Data were collected by medical residents and interns who have at least attached to the department of internal medicine.

Data quality control
To ensure the quality of data, data collectors were selected based on their interests and were adequately oriented and data collection was supervised by principal investigators. Any patient who had repeated visits within the study period was excluded from the study whether or not he/she was previously included in the study. Information provided by patients for doses of drugs, treatment modifications, and clinical evaluations were cross checked from their records for consistence. Besides, the collected data were checked for completeness and internal consistency.

Data processing, analysis and interpretation
The data were coded, cleaned, entered and analyzed with the help of SPSS window program version 16. Descriptive statistics was used for most variables and Chi-square test, where necessary, was used to test the association among various variables and p-value of < 0.05 was used as statistical significance. Standards of care of diabetic patients were defined based on the recent guideline of American Diabetic Association (2008) [17].

Ethical considerations
The study was conducted after ethical clearance was obtained from Jimma University ethical review board. Informed and written (signed) consent was obtained from each study participant. Only interested subjects were included in the study. People with life threatening illnesses were referred to emergency management.
3. **Author’s contributions** – the following change was made.

EKG designed the study, developed instruments, supervised data collection and data entry, analyzed data and wrote manuscript. ST and FA participated in the study design, supervised instrument development, reviewed analysis and contributed to manuscript editing. RR participated in the revisions of the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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