Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 28 February 2011

Reviewer: Bibbi Smide

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

It is a privilege for me to get the opportunity to review your manuscript. I think it is very important to highlight the situation for diabetic patients in your country. In comparison with western countries there are very few scientific articles available from Africa. As more and more people in most countries have to struggle with diabetes it is most interesting and necessary to perform these studies.

My suggestion is that you consider my comments and thereafter I am happy to review your manuscript again.

My comments:

The Background

You should state the aim also in the background. I lack a specific aim telling what you are going to study. In the abstract it is written to describe the gaps in the care of diabetic patients at Jimma University Specialized Hospital and device ways to improve it.

You end up your background part by writing Findings of this study will etc. I consider this sentence to be a kind of conclusion – recommendations after reading your results.

When reading the results the sub-headings are;

1) Background characteristics
2) Adequacy of glycemic control
3) Assessment of adequacy of hypertension management
4) Assessments of efforts done to watch for and prevent diabetes related morbidities

Your aim should include something like – the aim is to describe the current situation for a group of Ethiopian diabetic patients regarding diabetes specific characteristics, assessment of hypertension management and the occurrence of diabetes related morbidities. Another aim was to investigate the diabetic patients’ satisfaction with diabetes care.

This second aim indicates that I suggest that you include another sub-heading namely patients’ satisfaction with current diabetes care.
Methods
I suggest that you start with a sub-heading study-design. The reader then get a very good chance to understand what you are doing. Go on with next sub-heading Settings. Here you give some information about how often patients mostly come to the clinic. Do they have a diabetes specialist nurse? What diabetes education do patients get? Does each patient keep his own chart regarding treatment or how is this organized? You write – there occasions, how often was this, three times a year or what? A brief description would be very useful in order to get an overall picture. Include study area under this sub-heading.

Your text under the sub-heading Selection of study participants. You write that you used a simple random sampling – how did you do then? I understand that you had a kind of consecutive sampling as patients were included in the study until you reached the needed number. Were all patients who you approached interested in participating in the study?

I consider that the sub-heading data collection includes the concepts procedure and measurements. How did the interviews take place? Did the patients fill in the questionnaire? Illiterate patients, were they asked questions and somebody else filled in the questionnaire for them? Were all patients interviewed in the out-patient room or did they have any privacy?

The pre-tested questionnaire – how was this test done? Did you use a well known questionnaire? Had it been used in other studies? Or was it specifically developed for this very study? How many questions were included? How did you measure patients’ satisfaction? Patients’ attitudes regarding care given to them?

Please specify the measurements you used; for example all blood tests were done using the same investigation equipment? Weight on a weighing machine, the same for all? Etc.

Also how did you differ between type 1 and type 2 diabetes?

Results
You need not repeat the information in the text in the tables – please check.
Do not use abbreviations if you do not explain what it means. For example SMBG
And you have in table 1 written SMBGL??
Please check all tables.

Discussion
Why did you compare your results with the American (ADA) ones?
I understand that all patients were given drugs free of charge – was this the case for those participating in your study or did all patients get drugs free of charge?
Also, I think you could highlight the need of diabetes education – both for patients
and staff.

Misc.
Go through and make sure that your manuscript uses proper English. Consider the use of diabetes – diabetic

Conclusion
Please work with my suggestions and make alterations accordingly. I will thereafter review your manuscript again and maybe I will have some more suggestions when I have gone through it again.

Best regards
Bibbi Smide

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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