Reviewer's report

Title: Insufficient early detection of peripheral neurovasculopathy and associated factors in rural diabetes residents: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2014

Reviewer: Suh-Jen Lin

Reviewer's report:

Title of the study: Insufficient early detection of peripheral neurovasculopathy and associated factors in rural diabetes residents: a cross-sectional study

Reviewer comments:

This study identified the prevalence of Peripheral Neuropathy (PN) and peripheral vasculopathy (PV) and the associated factors such as age, HbA1C, geographic region, and practice of health behaviors in residents living in the rural area of Chiayi county in Taiwan. Early detection of the signs of PN and PV in type 2 diabetes could not be over-emphasized. The method of the study is sound. But the discussion needs to address similarities and differences of the findings as compared to similar studies from other countries. Recommend to add “in Taiwan” to the end of the title of the study since all the results pertained to the residents there.

Major compulsory revisions:

Background:

Page 3: Line 3 – “the prevalence of T2DM increases from 3.5% to 9.2%” - is this trend similar to that in other developed countries or worse? Line 4, “4th common cause of death” – do you refer to it as in Taiwan or in the US? In the beginning of the 2nd paragraph, “5%”: it needs a reference for this claim. Line 5 of the 2nd paragraph, “30% to 50%”: does this range refer to the Taiwanese population?

Page 4: rural regions – please add “in Taiwan” at the end of this sentence. The last few sentences on hypotheses: Please specify your hypotheses with reference to Taiwan. Although those are well known facts, we do not know whether they apply to those residents in the rural regions of Taiwan.

Page 6: Cardio-Vision model (MS 2000) of the ABI device: please specify the name of the company and its address.

Page 9, last paragraph, line 4: what is the total score of T2DHP?

Discussion:

Page 10: In the beginning of the 2nd paragraph, a different citation format was used. Please be consistent. Line 4: what is the cut-off score of MNSI for this current study? Lines 5-6: need a citation to support your claim. Last four
sentences: Please explain why your study did not use the TBI (Toe brachial Index)?

Page 11, first paragraph, lines 7-8: About 100% of the people (n =49) suffered from neuropathy, but this only pertains to 49 individuals. Several sentences need to be more specific with reference to the Taiwan area. “67% HbA1C…, 70% SBP” – this sentence did not make sense.

Reference: Is Reference # 15 just an abstract? How is this current study different from ref. #15?

This manuscript requires substantial editing by an English-speaking individual due to a number of significant grammatical errors.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Table 1: Change the title to “demographics”? Change the term “Flat region” to “plain region”?
Table 2.2 : To add “%” to all the numbers inside the brackets to enhance clarity?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.