Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical features, predictive factors and outcome of hyperglycaemic emergencies in a developing country.

Version: 1 Date: 17 December 2008

Reviewer: Moses S Elisaf

Reviewer’s report:

The authors tried to describe the clinical features and outcome of diabetic emergencies (diabetic ketoacidosis and hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state) in a Nigerian population. However, the criteria used for the diagnosis of both clinical situations as well as for the diagnosis of type 1 and type 2 diabetes mellitus are rather arbitrary. The authors should use the diagnostic criteria proposed by the American Diabetes Association (Diabetes Care 2006;29: 2739-2748).

Furthermore, the criteria for the diagnosis of the associated biochemical features are not mentioned. Overall, the presentation of the study results is not clear, since there is an overlap between data presented in the text as well as in the tables. Parameters that affect the patients' prognosis should be assessed by a multivariate analysis of variance.

Minor comments:

Serum creatinine levels are not mentioned

It is not clear whether serum sodium levels were corrected for the increased glucose levels.

What was the incidence of hyperkalemia in the study population?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'