Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors Associated with Place of Death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Authors:

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Version: 2 Date: 25 February 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Palliative Care

Please find enclosed revised manuscript entitled “factors associated with place of death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”. This work was submitted to BMC Palliative care and asked to address the comments given by the reviewers and editors. We tried to include all the comments and answer the questions given by the reviewers and editors. All the comments and questions we addressed are indicated by track change.

All co-authors have seen and agreed with the contents of the revised manuscript. We certify that the submission/revised version of our manuscript is an original work and is not under review at any other publication. The findings on this work are important inputs for resource poor settings to track the determinants for place of death, in addition to contribute for the national and international public health decisions in ascertaining the factors associated with place of death. We believe that our findings could be of interest to the readers of BMC Journal.

We hope that the editorial board will agree on the interest of this study.

Sincerely yours,
Aderaw Anteneh, Tekebash Araya and Awoke Misganaw

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Author’s Response to the Reviewers

Title: Factors Associated with Place of Death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Author’s response to the reviews: see over
Response to the reviewers and Editors

The authors would like to thank the reviewers and editors for their constructive comments. We have given responses one by one as per the comments and included in the manuscript using track change.

Response to the editors: The editors asked us to include ethical approval for our work, based on the comment we included the ethical approval of this work on page 6.

Response to the First Reviewer

Reviewer's report

Title: Factors Associated with Place of Death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2012

Reviewer: Joachim Cohen

Reviewer's report:

The revisions made by the authors pay attention to the comments I raised in my previous review and the research questions and results are now framed much better within the African context.

I believe that this has considerably improved the paper.

However, I still believe that there is insufficient effort to explain the findings within a broader social context and that as a result the paper is still too positivistic.

The authors explain the found patterns in terms of the access to healthcare facilities and this is an improvement as compared with their previous explanations. However, I'm not fully satisfied with their explanations and a more complex explanation, based on social theory and qualitative studies about end of life care provision in Africa should be presented to give insight into the mechanisms, beliefs, and practices that underlie the patterns the authors found.

The found patterns are that relatively few die in health facilities and that some factors (such as being higher educated, being married) seem to influence place of death in an opposite way than in developed countries.

This whole of patterns should be explained in a manner that helps to understand them (focus on understanding rather than explaining). This may include issues of access to care, but also patterns, attitudes, norms, and beliefs regarding taking care of dying friends and families in the
community. A broader perspective is thus needed to understand the findings within a sub-Saharan African context.

Response: The comments given by the reviewer is mainly focusing on the discussion part of the paper. In addition to access to health services, the reviewer suggested to explain the results in the context of attitudes, norms and beliefs regarding taking care of patients. Considering the comments given by the reviewer; in addition to access to health services we also tried to explain our results based on the norms, attitudes and beliefs of the society. All the new ideas incorporated are indicated by track changes on pages 13 and 14.

I would suggest that the authors include a last paragraph in their discussion (but before the conclusion) that does an effort to better understand the complex reasons underlying the patterns the authors found (ie low proportion of deaths in facilities, higher educated dying more often in hospitals, ...). Apart from access to care also cultural and social beliefs and attitudes are likely to be an important influence. These should be explained.

Response: Done according to the comments given and indicated by track changes on page 15.

Minor comments:
In the abstract the authors still use 'end their life'

Response: Changed by the word “die” and indicated by track change

Table 2 mentions crude odds ratios and adjusted odds ratios but I only see one column with ORs

Response: Crude odd ratios are also included in the table

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Response: We tried to edit the language throughout the paper

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer's report

Title: Factors Associated with Place of Death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2013

Reviewer: Mitsunori Miyashita

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

The health care system and characteristics of Ethiopia should be more described in introduction.

Response: Done according to the comment given and indicated on track change

There are too many figures after the decimal point in manuscript and tables.

Response: Corrected according to the comment

In figure 1, the author should use band chart or only health facility death (or out of health facility death).

Response: Done

As for ordered variables, the author should use trend test such as Cochran-Armitage test.

Response: We appreciate this scholarly comment as Cochran-Armitage test is very suitable for ordered variables. However, we have not used any ordered variable in our analysis and we believed that binary logistic regression is preferable for the variables we used.

As for table 2, is this crude OR or adjusted OR? I recommend to describe both of them.

Response: Corrected according to the comment given by both reviewers

The results section is too long. The author should briefly describe important result. The replication of tables is not needed.

Response: We deleted some of the results in order to make the result section short as per the comment and indicated by track changes on page 7

Are there any interactions between factors and cause of death?

There are many discrepancy between univariate and multivariate analysis. I think that there are some confounding. Please explain this.

Response: We tried to check the interaction of factors and causes of death and found very weak correlation between them. Therefore, it is not necessary to describe interactions

There are some grammar errors. This paper should be edited by native English speaker.
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

  **Response:** We tried to check the language throughout the paper

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no conflict of interest.