Reviewer's report

Title: A successful chronic care program in Al Ain-United Arab Emirates.

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Reviewer: Ingvar Ovhed

Reviewer's report:

This descriptive study shows how implementation in a bigger area can take place for important common chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension. It is important to work with the know-do problem in these fields i.e. to bridge the gap between EBM and clinical practice. The challenge is tough and great. This study will by that be somewhat of a descriptive report, however focusing on an important topic with well known and difficult problems.

I find the question posed by the authors well defined and the methods are appropriate and well described for this big project. There might be a need of space for such a description.

Minor essential revisions;

Try to give the tables a more informative description in the headlines, at east table 2, 3 and 4.

In this article the discussion and conclusions describe the results and the found data in a balanced way. However, the lack of data on how representative the intervention group was means that the future use of the results from the project is unclear.

Because of this I find that the limitations of the work is not clearly stated. However, the conclusions are restrained which is necessary in this descriptive study report.

The major compulsory revisions I find are;

The data needed to be known are some important denominators like the total population in the intervention area, the proportion of the population listed to the different centres, how representative for the whole population are the patients described in table 2 etc. It is important to know if the prevalence of the two diseases in the population focused is the same as in the whole region. Moreover it will be of interest to have the patient groups divided in three instead of two groups; a) Hypertension only, b) Diabetes only and of course c) Hypertension+diabetes.

Also a gender division would be interesting in this material.

The tables must be more easy to understand. In table 2 there are 671 patients in 2004 and 715 in 2007. These figures = total sum of patients described are not mentioned in the table, because of that the group with both diseases is not
separated from the other two.

The total population in the region is 400 000 but we don't know anything about how representative these 671/715 individuals are up to the diabetes/HT part of this total population. This is especially interesting as the prevalence in the area has been measured to very high figures, or 23,3% and 21%. (denominator: all ages or only some age groups?)

Does it mean that the region has about 80 000 patients with diabetes and/or Hypertension?

In such case would it be interesting to discuss how the results in this project will be used in the future.

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GP

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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'