Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of hypertension among federal ministry civil servants in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A call for a workplace-screening program

Version: 3
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Reviewer: Charles Mondo

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Referees comments

This study investigated the prevalence and associated factors of hypertension among federal ministry civil servants. The results in that prevalence of hypertension was found to be 27.3 %. Civil servants of age 48 years and above, age 38-47 years and age 28-37 years were more likely to be hypertensive. Similarly, history of cigarette smoking, family history of hypertension, self-reported Diabetes Mellitus and obesity were found to be significantly associated with hypertension. The present study has a certain sense to understand the burden of hypertension in this working group. However, several issues must be addressed. This reviewer therefore has following concerns:

Major concern:
there are no major concerns. The study was done using an internationally validated tool – the WHO STEPs instrument.

Minor concerns:

1. table 3 reports physical activity. The authors need to amplify this fact in the discussion. Are there any physical activity facilities in these work places?

2. The unlabeled table on page 19 shows obesity to be 61% in hypertension. However the five-line paragraph on page 10 does not discuss this result adequately. The authors should inform the readership the possible causes of this obesity. Is it genetic or acquired? Are there canteens in these work places? Is food prepaid by the employer? Or is it due to both eating high cholesterol foods and less physical activity …

These two points are the most easily modifiable risk factors at the work place

3. Page 11- conclusion. The focus of “work place” hypertension study should be to provide evidence that should convince managers to institute preventive measures. Screening per se in not enough. A recommendation needs to be made to encourage opportunities for increase physical activity at the work place – use of stairs instead of lifts, gym, etc and control of junk foods as well as less salt intake.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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