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 Date: 18 May 2015

Reviewer: JOSE G MILL

Reviewer's report:

General comments:
Hypertension is an increasing health problem worldwide, mainly in countries under development. In most of these countries there is no nationwide studies about prevalence and severity of the disease so that localized studies are necessary to give an insight of the general situation. In the present study, the prevalence of hypertension and its associated factors was investigated in civil servants of the Ethiopian govern (21 ministries) where 15,808 eligible were working at time of sampling (February to April 2014). Sampling was based on a traditional and 629 participants (from a selected sample of 655) were studied. Factors associated to hypertension (diet, physical activity, income, habits, etc) was investigated by a self reported questionnaire. Clinic blood pressure was measured by nurses with mercury sphygmomanometer. Body mass index was calculated according to measured weight and height. Overall prevalence of hypertension was 27.3% and the well known associated factors (age, obesity, previous diagnosis of diabetes, smoking, alcohol intake, etc) were identified as factors associated to the presence of the disease. Unlike other studies, there is no difference related to sex, income and education level.

The study was well designed, is clearly written and add information (not novel, however) about blood pressure and hypertension in Africa. I suggest to authors to add some information beyond that one included in the present text, about hypertension awareness, treatment and control.

Specific comments:
ABSTRACT
Line 40 - please, complete H...
Line 51 - ... found to be high. Compared with what kind of data? General Ethiopian population?
RESULTS
p.8, line 17 - SBP and DBP - please, give the meaning of these abbreviations at the first entry in the main text.

TABLES:
Table 1 - I suggest giving an equivalent in US$ for income (at the data recording year)
Table 3 - include blood pressure control with use of drugs

Table 4 - give the meaning of COR and AOR. The meaning of these association indexes should be better explained. For example: COR is the common Odds Ratio and AOR is the adjusted one? If yes, please explain in the section methods which variables were included in the adjustment.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest’ to declare.