Author’s response to reviews

Title: Assessment of hypertension management and control: a registry-based observational study in two municipalities in Cuba

Authors:
Esteban Londoño (elondono@itg.be)
Armando Rodríguez (armando.rdguez@infomed.sld.cu)
Addys Díaz (addysdiaz@infomed.sld.cu)
René García (rggr@infomed.sld.cu)
Pol De Vos (PdeVos@qmu.ac.uk)
Tullia Battaglioli (tbattaglioli@itg.be)
Patrick Van der Stuyft (Patrick.VanDerStuyft@UGent.be)

Version: 2 Date: 21 Dec 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Technical comments

1) Main article headings

Please include a ‘Conclusions’ heading before the concluding paragraph of the main text. The concluding paragraph should state clearly the main conclusions and provide an explanation of the importance and relevance of the study reported.

A “Conclusions” heading is now included in the revised version:

“While there is still room for improvement, the figures observed in this study are outstanding at the international level and illustrate that hypertension treatment and control is achievable in a resource-constrained setting such as Cuba. The country’s primary health care approach and social equity in access to care can be seen as key to overcome system barriers to blood-pressure control and sustained clinical outcomes. This may inspire policy makers in other developing countries to adapt their public health systems’ set up and functioning to respond to the growing need for better chronic care”.

2) Ethics approval and consent to participate declaration Please include the reference number(s) for the ethics committee approvals if available.

It was clarified that the study was approved by the Ethic Committee of the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Cuba on March 3, 2011 and by the Institutional Review Board of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp-Belgium, approval reference 783/12.

3) Funding declaration

Please indicate in the declaration the role of the funding body in: the design of the study; the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; and the writing of the manuscript.

We added to the funding declaration:

“Funding bodies did not intervene in the design of the study; the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; and the writing of the manuscript.”.

4) Tables and figure legends

Please move tables and figure legends to after the References list. Please remove the figure legends from within the body of the main text.

The suggested changes have been made. Please see the modifications within the text.

Reviewer reports

1. Leopold Ndemnge Aminde, M.D. (Reviewer 3):

1) Table 1: while you have done a good job to reorganize it, I think it is important to show the actual frequencies 'n' for each variable category accompanied by the percentages which you have presented, just like you do in column 2 of table 2. This would give a sense of the data and the
presence or not of any missing values in the variables. Secondly, given you already indicate in the second row of columns 2, 3 and 4 your description of the variables as either "% / mean", no need to accompany the values below with '%' again. Kindly delete them.

Presentation and content of Table 1 were edited in line with the reviewer’s advice.

2) In line with comment above regarding missing values, in case there are any missing values, endeavour to discuss in the methods section how you handled missing values.

The total number of respondents was 1333 and there were no missing values.

3) Referencing: please separate your in-text citations with commas, and not semi-colons. You may want to check journal guidelines for strict adherence.

Our in-text citations were changed according to the reviewer’s advice.