Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient, clinician and logistic barriers to blood pressure control among adult hypertensives in rural district hospitals in Rwanda: a cross-sectional study.

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Reviewer: Xiaofan Guo

Reviewer's report:

The paper investigated barriers to optimal hypertension management from perspectives of patient, doctor and medication in resource-poor settings. It is an original study addressing an interesting topic. However, there are several concerns to be addressed.

Background:

1. More data on poor control of hypertension in rural healthcare settings is needed in the first paragraph.

2. In the second paragraph, the authors mentioned Rwanda has a community based health insurance system and a process for central allocation of newly graduated doctors to rural district hospitals. It seems Rwanda has already come up with strategies to target the barriers. What is the rationale for the current study? The authors should express more clearly.

3. How the authors bring up the hypothesis based on the first two paragraphs?

Methods

1. Why chose the age of 15 years old for enrolment? The age itself is ok. However, it brings one problem. How did the doctors diagnose hypertension? The criteria are different for adults and adolescents. There are not any criteria mentioned in the Method part.

2. "Participation rates were not formally recorded at each site, and the choice of hospitals, patients and doctors was not based upon a probability-based sampling technique." The potential bias should be discussed.

Results

1. How did the authors find adherence was associated with literacy…..There is not any information from Table 3 or data analysis.

2. The authors pointed out "None of the measured patient characteristics, including adherence, was associated with poor blood pressure control." How did they get the conclusion? It looks unbelievable, since adherence is crucial for BP control.

3. There are not definitions for all the patient characteristics listed.
Discussion

1. The sample size of doctors is quite small, as discussed. The main conclusion the one based on the results from surveys of doctors, might not be solid enough considering all the potential bias.

2. Overall the paper will strongly benefit from language edit.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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