Author’s response to reviews

Title: Impact of disease screening on awareness and management of hypertension and diabetes between 2011 and 2015: results from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study

Authors:
Chihua Li (cl3106@cumc.columbia.edu)
L.H. Lumey (lumey@columbia.edu)

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Author’s response to reviews:

We thank the referee for her suggestions and have updated our manuscript according to her comments. Our specific responses are as follows:

The paper is much improved and easier to read now, thank you. Please find a few comments as follows:

Page 7, 2nd paragraph: "Also, hypertensive participants whose SBP was less than 140 mmHg, or DBP was less than 90 mmHg, or both, were considered to have their hypertension well-controlled." This is incorrect. Hypertension control, by definition, requires that both systolic and diastolic blood pressures be controlled i.e. SBP < 140 mmHg AND DBP < 90 mmHg. Please amend accordingly.

We previously followed the definition of 'well-controlled hypertension' used by Feng et al. 2014 (Health system strengthening and hypertension awareness, treatment and control: data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study). But on consideration, we agree with the reviewer that this definition is not correct, we therefore made following changes:

Page 7, paragraph 2: “Also, hypertensive participants whose SBP lower than 140 mmHg and DBP lower than 90 mmHg were considered to have their hypertension well-controlled.”

Page 9, paragraph 1: “In 2015, the majority of unaware hypertension patients (1704 of 2128, 80.1%) and diabetes patients (972 of 1135, 85.6%) were still not aware of their condition (Supplementary table 1), in spite of their positive screening results in 2011. And 25.7% (n=1180)
of those 4594 participants with positive hypertensive screening results in 2011 did not have their hypertension well-controlled in 2015.”

Page 9, paragraph 2: “And 25.7% (n=1180) of those 4594 participants with positive hypertensive screening results in 2011 did not have their hypertension well-controlled in 2015.”

Page 9, 1st paragraph, line 19: please include '...aware of their diagnosis...'

We included above text according to the reviewer’s suggestion.

Page 9, lines 32-35: "And 20.7% (n=950) did not have their hypertension well-controlled." Is this among those with known hypertension who were on treatment or simply those with known hypertension? Please describe/include the denominator.

We added the denominator according to the reviewer’s suggestion. Please see the below:

Page 9, paragraph 2: “And 25.7% (n=1180) of those 4594 participants with positive hypertensive screening results in 2011 did not have their hypertension well-controlled in 2015.”

Page 12, line 47: please include '...there were still many participants who did not have any hypertension or diabetes treatment in 2015 despite being informed of their condition in 2011.,'

We added the text as suggested by the reviewer.

All numbers above reflect the updated definition of ‘well-controlled hypertension’.