Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Nasheeta Peer

Reviewer's report:

Page 7, lines 40-44: For education, please provide the number of years of education for readers unfamiliar with your categorization.

Results:
Page 8, lines 47-50: Please include the proportion of hypertension awareness as percentage a of those with hypertension and not the total population.

Page 8, lines 57-60: Please do the same for diabetes awareness.

Page 8, line 50 mentions 2218 while line 13 on Page 9 states 2128 unaware hypertension participates. Please correct.

Page 9, lines 26-29: Please include the percentage improvements between 2011 and 2015 in the text.

Page 9, lines 36-38, and other pages: What do the authors mean by "...physical examinations for specific health conditions..."? Is this on presentation to a family practitioner for another ailment, etc.?

Tables 1 and 3: I would prefer the row instead of column percentages, please.

Figure 1: the categories are vague - this needs to be standalone without the reader needing to refer to the text for clarity. Please describe what you mean by 'monitoring' (is it having a blood pressure or glucose check in the past year?), 'medical advice', etc.

For completeness, what were the proportions of treatment and control among participants with hypertension/diabetes or among those who were aware of their diagnoses? Please include this data and discuss.

Discussion:
Please discuss in greater detail the reasons for the lack of awareness and speculate on/discuss ways to improve this drawing on how most participants were currently learning of their hypertension status i.e. "...physical examinations for specific health conditions...".
It is surprising that change in awareness was similar for hypertension and diabetes considering that participants were informed immediately about their raised blood pressures while they received postal reports of their diabetes status. This needs to be explored in greater detail.

Did doctors/healthcare professionals or community health workers (CHWs) inform participants of their hypertensions status? If the latter, then you need to ensure/discuss that CHWs are well-trained to impart the appropriate medical information. Training fieldworkers to conduct a study is different from training them to impart medical information as CHWs. Was any specific training provided for imparting medical information on hypertension or diabetes?

Posting results in this study demonstrated that this is an inappropriate method for imparting information on new diabetes status, and should perhaps not be used, or needs to be followed up with a telephone call. Please discuss and provide your take/opinion on this issue.

Page 11, lines 15-20: "This study further demonstrates through a well-conducted follow-up study that disease screening may only have limited impact on improving awareness of disease." I do not agree with this sentiment. Conducting a good follow-up study does not necessarily translate into imparting adequate or appropriate information on hypertension and diabetes status to participants, and it does not mean that screening has limited impact on improving awareness.

A major shortcoming of this study, which you mention but do not include under study limitations, is that you do not know the exact protocol followed when a participant was diagnosed with hypertension or what instructions they were given to follow upon receipt of a postal diagnosis of diabetes. Please elaborate on this and provide suggestions on what other screening studies could do.

Overall:
This is an interesting and potentially useful/valuable study that can perhaps highlight gaps/shortcomings in hypertension and diabetes screening, and suggest ways for improving awareness outcomes.

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.

Yes

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

Yes
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:

Acceptable

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