Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors influencing disability in patients with chronic low back pain attending a tertiary hospital in sub-Saharan Africa

Version: 0 Date: 19 May 2018

Reviewer: Koji Akeda

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript entitled "Factors influencing disability in patients with chronic low back pain attending a tertiary hospital in sub-Saharan Africa" conducted a hospital-based cross-sectional study on the disability of chronic back pain patients in Cameroon.

The manuscript is well written, however reviewer has several comments on this manuscript.

Comments:

At first, the number of pages should be written at the bottom of each page.

Methods

Study design and setting section:

The authors should describe the total number of patients who visit the Rheumatology unit of your hospital during the observation period. In addition, all the diagnosis of the patients who visited the observation period and the number of patients of each diagnosis should be written.

Sampling and study participant section:

The diagnosis criteria of low back pain (LBP) should be written in detail (for example, patients complain, area of pain, radiographic findings, etc.).

The specialty of doctors who diagnosed the low back pain should be written.

Results section

Table 1, 2 and 4 are complicated and difficult to see the data. The table should be modified to be simpler.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Unable to assess

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal

Do you want to get recognition for reviewing this manuscript?

Add a record of this review to Publons to track and showcase your reviewing expertise across the world’s journals. Signing up is quick, easy and free!

Yes