Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of a pioneer diabetes camp experience on glycemic control among children and adolescents living with type 1 diabetes in sub Saharan Africa

Version: 0 Date: 20 Aug 2015

Reviewer: Hristina Denic

Reviewer’s report:

This is a longitudinal study which assessed the impact of a diabetes camp on glycemic control during the camp, and 3 and 12 months post-camp attendance in youth with type 1 diabetes in Cameroon. The authors observed that among 32 individuals who completed the study, HbA1c was significantly reduced 12 months post-camp attendance, while insulin dosage remained unchanged. This is generally a well-written manuscript. However, it does require a few minor and major revisions and methodological considerations before it is accepted for publication. My suggestions are outlined below.

METHODS

1) Lines 109-122: Please clarify whether information on campers (insulin doses, HbA1c, weight) was recorded by the campers or by the camp staff.

2) Was any diabetes education provided to the campers during the 3- and 12-month follow-up visits? Please clarify what "routinely followed" (line 113) means.

3) It is unclear from the methods description whether 32 campers included in the study came to the 3rd and the 12th month of follow-up or whether different number of campers were included in the 3rd and 12th month of follow-up. Please provide the N's for how many campers came to each, either, or both follow-up visits.

4) Did you collect data on height? It is hard to make conclusions about the increase in weight at 12 months without having information on height. Kids grow rapidly at these ages. BMI would be more appropriate, but providing data on both weight and height may be sufficient.

5) Z test for two proportions assumes independence between samples. Using this test to compare good glycemic control between the beginning and the end of camp (Table 2) is not appropriate.

6) Line 127: The level of significance is alpha, not a p-value. This is an easy fix: Either "The level of significance was set at alpha=0.05" or "P-value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant" would work.

RESULTS
Lines 140-141: It is very good that you examined differences between the 14 campers who didn't participate in the follow-up visits and the 32 who did. However, adding a sentence or two about in what regards these two groups of campers did not differ (e.g. age, HbA1c, diabetes duration, etc.) would strengthen your point.

Table 1. Add total N at the top of the table. The table is entitled baseline characteristics, but you showed data on median number of visits and glycemia 3 months after camp. I would either add a separate table with participant characteristics at 3 and 12 months or make the title of Table 1 more descriptive.

Table 2. How did you account for making multiple comparisons? This is very important to discuss in your statistical analysis. Were multiple comparisons planned or unplanned? Did you consider making adjustments for multiple comparisons such as Bonferroni correction? Given that you show that certain variables are significantly associated with HbA1c levels at 3 months (Table 3), it is important to adjust for these variables in the ANOVA analysis to show whether it is the camp that affected the change in HbA1c or other participant characteristics. Have you done any multivariable analysis? Your main results could be confounded by diabetes duration, baseline HbA1c level, number of clinic visits, number of glycemia days, etc. I would highly recommend adjusting for at least a couple of most important variables. Given your small N, you are probably not going to be able to adjust for all of them. Please add Ns to each column of Table 2.

Table 3. I would suggest adding a column to this table to show which variables were associated with HbA1c levels at 12 months as well. Add total N at the top of the Table.

DISCUSSION

1) Line 205: How did you handle the participant with HbA1c>14% in your analysis? What value did you enter for him/her (14? 14.1?)? This is important to add in the statistical analysis section.

2) Line 212: What are the "key messages." Please be specific.

CONCLUSION

1) The very last sentence of the paragraph needs to be reworded. I am not sure what you meant by it.

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.
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.

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