Reviewer’s report

Title: Self-Reported Hypoglycemia in Adult Diabetic Patients in East Gojjam, Northwest Ethiopia: Institution Based Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 3 Date: 23 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Aldo Ferreira-Hermosillo

Reviewer's report:

Major concerns

1) In the abstract section, authors state that "394 sampled diabetic patients were selected through systematic random sampling technique" meanwhile in the study design section; they state: "all diabetic patients who have follow up at the diabetes clinic were included". The authors must clear if the included patients were randomly selected or by convenience sampling.

2) In the material and methods section, the authors explain that they defined hypoglycemia like "an event during which there are typical symptoms and improve after administrating carbohydrates or glucagon or if patients measured their plasma glucose concentration and was below 70 mg/dl". Why does the authors decide to include the first definition? Some patients report hypoglycemia even when their glucose levels are normal (relative hypoglycemia). Why not only consider the information of patients in whom hypoglycemia was demonstrated with plasma concentration?

3) In table 2, in the results section: In order to understand the hypoglycemia phenomena (and the OR related to use of insulin), the authors should include what type of oral treatments and insulin were used and what proportion of patients with type 2 diabetes was in treatment with OHA, OHA and insulin and insulin alone.

4) In the table 3, the authors describe the frequency of diabetes related complications and comorbidities in the total population, and in patients with type 1 and type 2. However, they didn't describe if there are statistical differences among groups.

5) In the same way, figure 1 and table 4 must describe if there were statistical differences among patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes. Additionally, I suggest analyzing if there were differences in the number of hypoglycemic episodes in each population.

6) I suggest to synthetize the results presented in all the tables. The authors could report the percentage (and the total number) of those patients that present a particular characteristic (e.g only those assigned as "Yes"). The readers can assume which one is the negative percentage.

7) In the table 5, the authors describe OR and adjusted OR. But, which were the factors that were used to adjust them?

8) The discussion section didn't highlight the importance of the study.

9) The manuscript requires full grammar revision.

In conclusion, it is an interesting article that explores the rate of hypoglycemia in a cohort of patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes and some of its related factors. However, the main limitation of the
study is patient's lack of confirmation of glycemic levels during symptoms and that the authors didn't described the full characteristics of the treatments used by them. Additionally, the conclusions obtained by the authors have been previously proven in other studies.

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.

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:

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