Reviewer’s report

Title: Uncontrolled hypertension among patients with comorbidities in sub-Saharan Africa: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 20 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Wisit Cheungpasitporn

Reviewer's report:

-One of my major concerns is there have been changing in definitions and staging for hypertension, controlled and uncontrolled hypertensions especially for the past decade, such as the new 2017 ACC/AHA guideline for classification of hypertension. Therefore, different studies in different timelines likely had different and incomparable prevalence of hypertension due to different used definitions of hypertension in each study. This current protocol mentioned the criteria of the Joint National Committee (JNC), but different studies surely used different definitions, and there are newly studies using the new 2017 ACC/AHA guideline. So, there surely will be difference in the prevalence due to the difference in definition. There is no mention on how will the investigators perform subgroup analysis or take the timeline of study into consideration. My concern is even this protocol is published, it will be difficult that the study itself will show validity and provide impact without taking this important point of definition of hypertension into consideration.

-Definitions of comorbidities also need to be taken into consideration. The investigators need to clearly state that they will gather definitions of comorbidities from included studies. E.g. CKD and DM diagnoses.

-Age should be taken into consideration and planned analysis in different age group. Study participants should be at least 15 years of age; this is very wide range. Older patients have higher prevalence of hypertension.

-The aim of this study in introduction is very vague and unclear "to fill the evidence gap in sub-Saharan Africa. This study aims to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis on the burden of uncontrolled hypertension among patients with comorbidities in sub-Saharan Africa" is not specific and unclear. Need to be rewritten.

-Literature Searches and Search terms are incomplete. Search terms in Ovid MEDLINE and Embase are different. The investigators have attached OVID MEDLINE syntax. Please also attach search terms for Embase and other databases as well.

-Some revision of the English language is needed, there are misspells and incorrect grammars, to mention as several as below:
"leading cause for cardiovascular diseases" It appears that the preposition "for" is incorrect.

"meta-analyis review protocol" "meta-anlysis" is misspelled.

"reported according Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analysis protocol (PRISMA-P) guidelines" "according" should be "according to"

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An article of limited interest

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