Reviewer’s report

Title: Survival status and factors associated with treatment outcome of severely malnourished children admitted to Ayder Referral Hospital: A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 18 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Kris Mogensen

Reviewer's report:

Please note that I am a new reviewer to this manuscript after the first set of revisions.

This was a very nice single-center study evaluating the impact of severe malnutrition in hospitalized children. This was very interesting and will be useful to clinicians in identifying children at particularly high risk for treatment failure. The methods were very clear, the statistics seem appropriate (as I am not a statistician, I do not feel fully qualified to evaluate this other than to say that your methods made sense to me and are similar to analyses in my own research), and conclusions are very consistent with what I would expect in a severely malnourished population. There seems to be a "point of no return" in severe malnutrition and this study does give support to my own experience in the adult population. Two minor questions for consideration, if only for the discussion section:

1. You give a good potential mechanism for the benefits of the deworming medications. If deworming medication is protective, it is fair to say that you'd encourage better screening and intervention? Is funding for the medication an issue? What are the barriers to using these medications?

2. Do you think readers would be interested in the composition of the RUTF? Or would that be something you may include in another paper? I was curious what was in it (calories, protein, fat, carbohydrate, serving size) and frequency of the supplementation. I was also curious about the barriers to use of the RUTF - is this also a funding issue, the children's acceptance of the supplement, or other?

I think even a sentence commenting on the barriers to these beneficial interventions would add strength to the paper, or perhaps you are considering a follow up study?

Overall, I think this is a very interesting and important study, and I look forward to seeing it published.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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