Author’s response to reviews

Title: Diet satisfaction and associated factors among adult surgical orthopaedic patients admitted at a teaching hospital in Lusaka province, Zambia; A hospital-based cross-sectional study

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BMC Nutrition
Dear Editor,

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Diet satisfaction and associated factors among adult orthopaedic patients admitted at a teaching hospital in Lusaka province, Zambia; A hospital-based cross-sectional study

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BMC Nutrition

REVIEWER 1: Jorja Collins

Comment No. 1; Line 35, 116, 208, Minor grammatical/spelling errors - line 35 its' cleints; line 116 used to take; line 208 countrys'. Response No 1: Corrections have been done on line 35 (cleint replaced by client), line 127 (used to take has been rephrased), line 197(countrys’ replaced by country’s).

Comment No.2; Table 1 - please give the units and currency for 'monthly income' Response No.2; Corrections made in the table and a footnote has been included to read “K stands for Zambian Kwacha”. 


Comment No.3; Thank you for providing the section 'Additional information from relevant foodservice staff'. It is essential to provide context to the study. However, this section should be reported in the method as the second paragraph under the heading 'Study population'. This paragraph describes in detail the foodservice system associated with the population you studied. It is not an outcome of your study, so it doesn't belong in the results. The paragraph should also be re-written so that it appears it is in your own words, not the words of the person who you asked for the information Response No.3; The proposed change has been effected, refer to second paragraph under study population.

REVIEWER 2: Alison Yaxley

Comment No. 1; It is pleasing to see that the methods have been expanded and the results consolidated however, I am still of the opinion that there is insufficient detail on the food service system at this hospital. Furthermore in the discussion the authors make comparison with literature but do not adequately acknowledge the significant differences between this food service and that in other settings eg Greece. The authors have not provided any recommendations to improve the satisfaction despite indicating that their findings may influence policy Response No. 1; Food service information has been provided under the methods section to give context to the study. The study did not discuss the differences in the food service system at the teaching hospital and those in other countries such as Greece, because food service system was not an outcome of the study. A recommendation to improve satisfaction has since been included and kindly refer to line 243, 244 and 245.

Comment No. 2; Line 35 - spelling 'clients' Response No. 2; Corrections have since been made, refer to line 35.

Comment No. 3; Line 36 - suggest change 'either be satisfied or dissatisfied' to 'either be met or not' Response No. 3; As suggested, change has been effected.

Comment No. 4; Line 54 - is the observation of patients during meals from a published study? ref? needs clarification Response No. 4; Actual observation was done by the investigator, however, to avoid ambiguity, the sentence has been dropped.

Comment No. 5; Line 74 - I am not sure that you have provided adequate justification for low cost only. Noted comment at line 83 but does that mean that no adult surgical orthopaedic patients are admitted to high cost wards? Response No. 5; Orthopaedic patients admitted to high cost wards were excluded from the study because they are not on the regular hospital menu provided by the main kitchen. The study only included patients who were on the standard hospital menu as indicated in the inclusion criteria and these are admitted in low cost wards.
Comment No. 6; Line 95 - insert space between 'from' and '10' Response No. 6; Space has been inserted. Refer to line 105 and 106.

Comment No. 7; Line 120 - did you perform Chi square tests to examine statistical differences between overall satisfaction in each domain? Response No. 7; Clarification made is that inferential statistics was used to test for associations between various variables which included chi-square test.

Comment No. 8; Line 157 - If the authors wish to provide food service information in the results, based on interviews with food service staff, the methods should be fully described. Note - this highlights significant issues with the food service which would impact on the satisfaction of patients and should be more fully addressed in the discussion. Response No. 8; Information on food service system now falls under the methods sections as opposed to the results section.

Comment No. 9; Line 187 - the opening paragraph makes comment on the role of the dietetics and catering departments, however this highlights significant issues with the food service in this institution. In the absence of a fixed menu and with certain food groups lacking how can the dietetics department ensure adequate intake for any of these patients. Response No. 9; The first paragraph merely provided context to the discussion to highlight the importance of the food service system. The recommendation has been included to stress the need for the hospital to address gaps in the menu such as lack of variety.

Comment No. 10; Table 1 - unit for income? Response No. 10; The units and currency used have been included and clarified. Refer to the footnote under table 1.

Yours faithfully,

Nixon Miyoba