**Reviewer's report**

**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

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 05 Dec 2017

**Reviewer:** Jorja Collins

**Reviewer's report:**

This study reports on the satisfaction with hospital foodservices among orthopaedic patients in a hospital in Africa.

Overall, this appears to address a gap in the literature as limited studies have been reported on foodservice satisfaction in developing countries. The method appears to be reasonable, with a clear sampling methodology, sufficient sample size (n=98) and use of validated questions from multiple tools. However, there are significant limitations with the reporting of this study and the manuscript needs a major re-write.

Number lines referred to are those on the right of the page.

**Abstract**

It is not clear that the population is orthopaedic patients. Please describe which variables were analysed for correlations and associations.

**Key words**

Please review mesh headings and revise keywords. Suggest add in 'foodservice'.

**Introduction**

Line 41-42 needs to be referenced.

The scope of the study and the operational definitions need to be incorporated into the body of the introduction. Please review the structure of other papers published in this journal.
You report that the aim is to "establish reasons and type of meals supplemented in a teaching hospital" but how you measured this is not reported in the method, and these results are not reported.

Method

Please report that ethics approval for this research was obtained.

The method repeats information in different aspects. Please ensure there is no duplication, and appropriate information is reported under each heading.

There is some inconsistency with the description of the sample - e.g. line 81 &ge;3 days, line 73 >5 days. Please clarify.

The method needs to describe the foodservice system at the hospital. E.g. how many meals are provided? How many choices? Is the food cooked fresh onsite? Is it delivered from elsewhere? Who are the people who deliver the meals? Is the menu on paper or electronic? Please also describe the differences in foodservices between high and low cost wards.

It is unclear how you established the questions to be asked. Did you take different questions from 4 different tools to make your own list of questions? This means that the tool is no longer valid as it is not used in its original form. This needs to be addressed as a limitation.

The method reports that you combined response options into 'satisfied' and 'dissatisfied' and also considered the likert scale responses as scores, but this does not appear to have been done in the results. Please remove if this was not the method followed.

Please specify which variables were explored in the chi2 tests and the correlations.

Results

Please describe the number of participants included/excluded in this section, not in the methods.

Please combine Table 1, Table 2 and Figure 1 into 1 table as these all report demographic characteristics of the patients. In future studies, it would be useful to also collect data on the weight, BMI, nutritional status (e.g. assessed by SGA tool), type of diet of patients as this is useful to understand who the population are.

You report that you conducted chi2 testing and correlations, but these results are not reported at all.
Discussion

The discussion does not adequately interpret the results and their implications for hospitals and future research. Suggest the authors review other papers or guidelines for writing a discussion.

The demographic characteristics have been over interpreted and compared to other studies. The main point you need to consider is whether the study participants are representative (or not) of the patient group, and other hospital patients.

You have attempted to interpret the implications of the results for hospitals and dietetic practice, but this could be expanded more. Providing a summary of the foodservice system, the menu and the dietetic service in the method will give you the opportunity to build on this in the discussion. How do the results you see reflect the foodservice system that is available? What specifically needs to be changed to address the low satisfaction? E.g. Is it a problem with the menu, or is it a bigger problem around the system, or lack of guidelines on hospital foods, or the money available for foodservices in hospitals etc.

There is greater opportunity to describe the implications of low satisfaction on the satisfaction of patients as well as their nutritional status and clinical outcomes. We know patients who are less satisfied eat less, which influences their malnutrition risk and in turn this influences their health outcomes. This will create the rationale for proposing changes.

Studies on foodservice satisfaction in western countries generally show high satisfaction with hospital foodservices. Why do you think your findings are different? Are there differences in healthcare quality in developed and developing countries that explain this?

What further research needs to be done?

Referencing

Inconsistent style used, and not in keeping with the journal requirements. Please review journal requirements and reformat.

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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