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: 06 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Alison Yaxley

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript describes a cross sectional study conducted in Zambia which aimed to investigate the food service and patient satisfaction in a single hospital. As identified by the authors there is a paucity of published literature in this setting and given the nutritional issues experienced in this geographical area this study provides some basis for further work in this area.

In general the manuscript is well written.

Background:

Brief but generally adequate with attempts at providing rationale for the study. I think this would be strengthened by expanding the content. While there is little literature published in this setting it would be useful to provide some statistics in other countries against which to assess the findings. For example, rates of malnutrition are high in developed countries and given the differences in developing countries this would strengthen your rationale for investigating the food service.

It would also be useful to have some information on the food service at this hospital which may contribute to the satisfaction. For example are meals plated in the kitchen and transported or plated on wards?

The second part of the aim is not clear and therefore not sure that the rationale is well made. This should be clarified.

The scope of the study does not seem to consider the second part of the aim.

Methods:

The operational definitions should be integrated into the methods and some rationale and references should be provided. For example, why select that age group?
Some inconsistencies in the methodology. For example, at the end of paragraph one the population is identified as those who have been admitted for 5 or more days but in the second paragraph the inclusion criteria is those who have had a hospital diet for 3 or more days. There also needs to be some rationale for these cut-offs; why 5 or more days?

Lines 91-93 is results.

Lines 101-102 is results.

How many items were in the questionnaire and how long did it take? Important to have an idea of potential participant burden.

Who collected the data? Were they involved in care of the patients? It is not clear and may influence the feelings of the patients in terms of whether they participate (pressure to do so) or in satisfaction (so as to please the data collector).

It is not clear where the data to answer the second part of the aim (establish reasons and type of meals supplemented in a teaching hospital) comes from.

Data analysis plan indicates tests for parametric data. Was normality assessed prior to selecting these tests?

Results:

Given the age of the participants in this study, I would assume that the injuries were as a result of trauma rather than age-related falls. It would be useful however to provide some information on the type of injuries expected in this setting in the background.

Line 128 - presume this should be Table 1? There is no Table 3.1.

It is useful to compare the data between genders as well as looking at the total sample.

Line 137 - Table 3.2?

Line 140 - add 'per month'.

A lot of demographic findings are presented in the results however there does not appear to be any description in the methods on how this information was gathered.

Figure 1 - if fractures were not as a result of trauma how did the fractures come about?

No results to contribute to the second part of the aim 'establish reasons and type of meals supplemented in a teaching hospital'.
No results for Chi-square or correlation analysis presented. Noted that p values presented in the abstract but nowhere else and no indication of effect size.

Discussion:

The first paragraph of the discussion should present a brief overview of the key findings of the study before moving on to discuss key findings. The first four paragraphs discuss demographics and do not contribute to meeting the aim. While these aspects may affect satisfaction no data has been presented that examined satisfaction by eg gender, income. The discussion would be strengthened by focussing on the findings that address the aim.

The discussion indicates results of correlation analysis but these findings have not been presented.

Overall the discussion needs a total rewrite to focus on the findings that address the aim. If there are no findings to address the second part of the aim that should be removed.

Line 232 - no indication that the sample size is too small. What is this statement based on?

**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 am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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