

Review of: "Prevalence and Factors Associated With Non-communicable Diseases Among People Living With HIV at Kalisizo Hospital in Kyotera District, Uganda: A Cross-Sectional Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Hi dears, while your study is valuable, I have some comments on it which I will explain one by one. My most important comment is its English language, which should be revised, and then:

Abstract

Limited Discussion of Limitations: In the abstract section, there is nothing about the study's limitations, which is necessary to provide an appropriate view of the research. Including a brief mention of the limitations can help the reader to interpret the findings more accurately, since sometimes the readers only read the abstract section of an article to find an overview of it.

Introduction

I repeat that this manuscript could benefit from more description of the limitations of existing studies and the specific objectives of this study.

Methods

- Limited Generalizability:** The study focuses on a specific population (PLHIV aged 35 years and above attending Kalisizo Hospital), which limits the generalizability of the findings to other populations or settings. It's essential to mention this limitation (here and in the limitation section).
- Single-Center Study:** This study is conducted at a single hospital, but multi-center studies could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the prevalence and burden of NCDs among PLHIV.
- Age Criterion Selection:** Although the rationale for selecting PLHIV aged 35 years and above is explained, a reader needs to ensure that this age group adequately represents the prevalence of NCDs. Discussing potential limitations or biases associated with this age criterion would strengthen the methodology. Please add an explanation about this matter.

Sample size and sampling procedure

Sample Size:

It's essential to ensure that the sample size is sufficient to detect meaningful differences or associations within the study population.

1. **Nonresponse Rate:** Since the manuscript shows a nonresponse rate of 14%, it's important to consider the potential reasons for nonresponse to the study findings. Discussing the potential biases mentioned by nonresponse could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the study's limitations.
2. **Generalizability:** Despite employing a random sampling technique, the study's generalizability is limited to PLHIV attending Kalisizo Hospital. It's important to mention this limitation and discuss its reasons.

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Data collection

1. **Limited Blood Sugar Data:** Although the manuscript has written about recording blood sugar measurements, it does not provide detailed information on the method of measurement or the rates used for defining abnormal blood sugar levels. Providing additional details on blood sugar measurement procedures and rates for abnormalities will enhance the data collection process.
2. **Potential Measurement Bias:** Instead of using calibrated equipment and standardized procedures, you should discuss measures taken to minimize measurement bias (for instance, reader bias). In this way, you will strengthen the methodology section of the study.

To measure Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG)

1. **Proxy for Age Estimation:** I couldn't find how you could use significant historical local events as a proxy for estimating ages in cases who are unaware of their ages. This approach will make potential inaccuracies in age estimation. You should discuss the method for meeting this limitation.
2. **Income Level as a Proxy for Socioeconomic Status:** Using self-reported income as an indicator of socioeconomic status has some limitations since it relies on participants' reports and can't completely show their socioeconomic status. Alternative measures could strengthen the assessment of socioeconomic status.

Categorization of Variables:

1. **Socioeconomic Status:** While variables such as education level and occupation can be used as indirect indicators of socioeconomic status, additional measures (for instance, income, and assets) could provide a more comprehensive assessment of socioeconomic status.
2. **Religion:** Discussing potential heterogeneity within religious categories could provide a more valuable understanding of its influence on health outcomes.
3. **Family History of NCDs:** It is important to discuss potential limitations related to self-reporting and recall bias. In addition, including second-degree relatives (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles) could provide a more comprehensive assessment of familial risk factors for NCDs.

Results

1. You should show the results in separate tables based on your specific objectives.

2. Sociodemographic Characteristics:

- Although the prevalence rates and associated factors have been presented in a good manner, it could be beneficial to include more descriptions of the statistical methods, such as the specific variables included in the regression models and any adjustments made for potential confounders.