

# Review of: "Auditing the Cost of Treating Hypertension in a Tertiary Health Facility in Yobe State, North-Eastern Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## General comments

The paper provides a comprehensive overview of the research topic, making it clear that hypertension care in Nigeria is costly. The paper is well structured, the writing is clear and succinct, and can be easily understood by a broad audience.

However, the authors fail to highlight the significance of the study. Additionally, health insurance coverage is gradually becoming a universal concept. The authors fail to indicate whether this is true for Nigeria and the tertiary hospital, and if true, whether the current cost of treatment is covered by insurance or not.

## Methods

The methods are sound, but the authors should consider providing further details on the one-proportion formula, which is entirely missing in this section. Also, "patients must have had 3 visits..." but it is not clear what period those visits should fall within.

Dollar and Naira exchange rates are very volatile, so authors should consider using the average exchange rate for the period and state this in the methods.

## Results

Consider approximating the number of visits per month to 1.

Consider rephrasing and rewriting the section on monthly income spent on treating hypertension and the cost of achieving one blood pressure control. Consider using explanatory statements instead of equations (equations without left-side variable(s) are incomplete).

The use of a graphical method in displaying the results for employed versus unemployed patients will be much more effective at showing the differences due to employment status.

Also, a statistic to test the difference between employed and unemployed patients will be relevant.

## Discussion

The discussion is not very insightful and fails to discuss the practical implications of the study findings. It appears that the

discussion is a repetition of the results.

### **Style and clarity**

The paper is generally well-written. First, expand an abbreviation before subsequently using it (e.g., IQR).

### **Grammatical and language**

Consider proofreading for grammatical errors. Examples are below:

“This study covers the costs borne by the patients.”