Review of: "Burden and Predictors of Diabetic Nephropathy in an Adult With Diabetes Mellitus Patients on Follow up at Ambo University Referral Hospital Central, Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Peer Review

The study presented, focusing on the burden and predictors of diabetic nephropathy among diabetes mellitus patients at Ambo University Referral Hospital, addresses a highly relevant and impactful public health issue. Understanding the risk factors and prevalence of diabetic nephropathy in low-resource settings is crucial for improving patient outcomes and optimizing healthcare interventions.

Strengths of the Study:

1. **Important Research Topic**: Diabetic nephropathy is a critical health problem, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where diabetes is on the rise. Your study helps fill a significant data gap in understanding the burden of this complication in Ethiopia.
2. **Clear Methodology**: The cross-sectional design and systematic sampling offer a structured approach to gathering data. The use of both biophysical measurements and patient interviews strengthens the reliability of the findings.
3. **Statistical Rigor**: The use of multivariable logistic regression analysis adds depth to the statistical exploration of the data, allowing for the identification of independent predictors of diabetic nephropathy.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. **Clarification in Methodology**: While the methodology is well-detailed, I recommend providing more clarity on how you ensured the validity and reliability of the data, especially considering the exclusion of some participants due to incomplete laboratory data. This could help readers understand the potential impact of missing data.
2. **Discussion of Limitations**: You have appropriately acknowledged the limitations of your study, such as the cross-sectional design and the lack of micro-albuminuria testing. However, it might be helpful to expand this section by discussing potential biases, such as recall bias in the behavioral data or challenges with accurately diagnosing the onset of diabetes.
3. **Comparison to Similar Studies**: The discussion would benefit from a more in-depth comparison to other similar studies, not only from sub-Saharan Africa but also from different geographical areas. This can help contextualize your findings and show how they align or differ from global trends.

4. **Future Recommendations**: The conclusion of the paper would be strengthened by offering more specific recommendations for public health interventions or policy changes based on your findings. While you mention the need for better glycemic control and addressing lifestyle factors, providing targeted recommendations (e.g., community health initiatives, screening programs) could enhance the practical impact of your research.

Conclusion: This paper provides valuable insights into the predictors and prevalence of diabetic nephropathy in a low-resource setting. It contributes meaningfully to the growing body of research on diabetes complications in sub-Saharan Africa. By addressing the minor areas for clarification and expanding the discussion, the impact of this study could be further enhanced. Overall, I believe this research has the potential to inform clinical practice and public health policies aimed at improving the management of diabetic patients in Ethiopia and beyond.