

# Review of: "Prevalence and Factors Associated With Selected Non-communicable Diseases (Hypertension, Type 2 Diabetes, and Depression) 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.

1. Title: Suitable to the manuscript
2. Objective: Suitable
3. Methodology is good
4. The following paragraph in the methods part is not required: "Additionally, the hospital has an HIV clinic that conducts routine screening and management for approximately 7000 PLHIV. Regular blood pressure measurement is integral during each clinic visit. Furthermore, the hospital has an NCD clinic which is operational every Thursday. This clinic provides screening, diagnosis, and management of NCDs. Screening for depression is also based on presented symptoms. Despite these efforts, the quantifiable burden of NCDs among PLHIV at Kalisizo Hospital remains undocumented."
5. Participants were selected on a single random method. Please include in the methods part how many were planned to select for a single day and what was the rationale for this number.
6. Please include in the methods part how you classified patients as hypertensive and non-hypertensive.
7. Please include in the methods part how you classified the patients who are already known to be hypertensive and taking medication.
8. Please include in the methods part how you classified patients who are already on antidepressants.
9. The following information in the methods part has been shown twice, therefore delete the second instance that it appeared: "In our study, independent variables were classified as follows: BMI was defined as an individual's weight in kilograms divided by the square of their height in meters, expressed in kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Participants with a BMI less than 18.5 were classified as underweight, those with a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 were categorized as having normal weight, individuals with a BMI ranging from 25 to 29.9 were considered overweight, and those with a BMI of 30 or more were classified as obese."
10. The following descriptions on the categorization of the socio-demographic variables are not needed as they are shown in the results part: "A variable termed "age group" was then established, comprising three categories: 35-44 years represented as 1, 45-54 years as 2, and 55 years and above as 3."

Income level was used as a proxy for the socioeconomic status of the participant. We asked participants how much they earned in a month. We later categorized income into four groups: less than or equal to 100,000 Uganda shillings (UGX), greater than 100,000 UGX but less than or equal to 500,000 UGX, greater than 500,000 UGX but less than or equal to 1 million UGX, and greater than 1 million UGX.

Different marital statuses included: never married, currently married, divorced, or separated, and widowed. Education level assessed how long a person stayed in the education system and what level of education qualification they hold. It ranged from nonformal, lower primary (P1-P4), upper primary (P5-P7), secondary, and tertiary (which included university education). Different religions included: Catholic, Anglican or Pentecostal, and Muslim.

Occupation was defined as a person's usual or principal work or business, especially as a means of earning a living. It included white collar (government, NGO, clerical, and teaching), business, agriculture, and no occupation."

11. Do you have a reference to support the following? If so, please provide a reference; then, you do not need to explain the categorization in the text: "We categorized WHO clinical staging of HIV into three stages, with diagnoses based on clinical signs, simple investigations."

12. The results in tables are repeated in text. This is not needed.

13. Tables 4, 5, 6, and 7 should be merged into a single table.

14. Please try to improve the written language.