

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

Dr Nadia Noreen¹

¹ Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

General Comments:

Overall, the study provides valuable insights into the financial burden of hypertension treatment among patients attending a tertiary health center in Yobe, Nigeria. The findings shed light on the challenges faced by individuals in accessing and affording hypertension care, particularly among those of low socioeconomic status. The study's methodology is sound, and the results are presented clearly and comprehensively. However, there are areas where the manuscript could be strengthened to enhance its impact and contribution to the field of public health research. Below are constructive comments and suggestions for improvement:

Introduction:

The introduction effectively outlines the significance of the study by highlighting the global and national prevalence of hypertension and its associated complications. However, it would be beneficial to provide more context on the specific socioeconomic factors influencing hypertension management in Nigeria, such as unemployment rates, income levels, and healthcare infrastructure challenges.

Consider revising the introduction to clearly articulate the gap in the literature that the study aims to address. Specifically, emphasize the lack of comprehensive studies quantifying the financial costs of hypertension treatment in Nigeria and the importance of understanding these costs for informing healthcare policy and practice.

Methods:

The methodology section provides a detailed description of the study design, sample selection, and data collection procedures. However, consider including more information on the validity and reliability of the questionnaire used to collect data from respondents. Providing details on any pilot testing or validation procedures conducted would enhance the methodological rigor of the study.

Clarify how patients were selected for inclusion in the study and how potential biases, such as selection bias, were addressed. Additionally, discuss any limitations or constraints encountered during data collection that may have impacted the study's findings.

Results:

The results section presents key findings on the socioeconomic characteristics of respondents, the cost of hypertension treatment, and the cost-effectiveness of different drug combinations. Consider organizing the presentation of results using tables or figures to improve readability and facilitate comparisons between different variables.

Provide more context for the results by discussing how they compare to previous studies on the financial burden of hypertension treatment in Nigeria and other similar settings. Highlight any notable differences or similarities in cost estimates and treatment outcomes.

Discussion:

The discussion effectively synthesizes the study findings and interprets their implications for hypertension management in Nigeria. However, consider expanding the discussion to include a more critical analysis of the study's limitations and potential sources of bias. Addressing these limitations will strengthen the validity and generalizability of the study's conclusions.

Discuss the policy implications of the study findings in more detail, particularly in terms of strategies for improving access to affordable hypertension care and reducing the financial burden on patients. Consider proposing recommendations for government subsidies on hypertension treatment and investments in health promotion initiatives to prevent hypertension-related complications.

Conclusion:

The conclusion succinctly summarizes the study findings and emphasizes the need for government subsidies on hypertension treatment in Nigeria. Consider revising the conclusion to reiterate the study's key implications for public health policy and practice, as well as recommendations for future research.

Provide a more forward-looking perspective on the implications of the study findings for addressing the broader challenges of non-communicable disease management in Nigeria. Discuss how investments in hypertension care could contribute to achieving national health goals and reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease in the population.

This study makes a valuable contribution to the literature on the financial burden of hypertension treatment in Nigeria. By addressing the above suggestions, the author can further enhance the clarity, rigor, and impact of this research findings. Keep up the excellent work, and I look forward to seeing future developments in this important area of public health research