



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_25601
Title of the Manuscript:	Are we treating the right people? Are we treating the people right? Health status, knowledge and quality of life amongst patients with diabetes at a specialized clinic at Kamuzu Central Hospital, Malawi.
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	Lines 28-30: Little is known about the demographic characteristics, health status, disease specific knowledge and subjective QoL of patients with diabetes in Malawi. What are/would be the impacts of such gap in knowledge in Malawi? Could the authors clarify in the introduction why studying these aspects is crucial or most needed? (<i>eg1</i>: DM prevalence is increasing, but is lethality also increasing in Malawi or in KCH, so that there is a need to understand some specific aspects of DM to better control the progression of the disease? <i>eg2</i>: What are current health policies about DM in Malawi? What could this research bring to these policies?).	Corrected The health care policies in Malawi emphasise infectious diseases and this is where most of the money on health care is spent. Meanwhile, for non-communicable diseases like diabetes, small affordable changes in the healthcare system and lifestyle of individuals can make a huge difference. In order to change the mindset of policy makers and those affected by diabetes, knowledge is required on who suffers from diabetes, how healthy are they and what is the impact of the disease on their quality of life. Poor quality of life affects the socioeconomic status of individuals and may have a negative impact on the economic development of a nation. Malawi' s current National non communicable diseases Action Plan calls for the conduction of epidemiological and operational research for CVDs, Diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases to address knowledge gap and to develop appropriate action. Quoted "Malawi is committed to the prevention and control of non communicable diseases (...) a major burden to



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	Lines 61-64: <i>The medical review is usually brief and symptoms-oriented. There is no specific protocol for patients' management. Medicines like oral anti-diabetes drugs (OADs) or insulin are prescribed for up to three months depending on availability in the pharmacy. Diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes is based on clinical symptoms and age.</i> The 1st part of title of the study is: "Are we treating the right people?" I have not caught which parts of the questionnaire answer that question. It seems to me it is already outlined here as the authors tell about diagnosis methods and management in KCH. I understood from this paragraph the answer was obviously no. Unless we account for what is said in the discussion part lines 235-237. So could the authors explain what part of the study is about this 1st part of the title or do they agree with me?	the country" (6). The reviewer points to an important aspect: Obviously the questionnaire and the examinations can only include patients who join the clinic and hence address the question "are we treating people right?" and not the questions are we treating the right people?" which is not equally featured in the result section. However we state and show that the population registered and treated in the DC is a very specific group - dominated by middle aged, socially better off, well educated, overweight to obese females. (Results, demographic data 173-180, discussion line 270-275). This group does not reflect the pattern of the epidemiological findings concerning diabetes from the STEP survey in 2009, which shows for example a majority of males. Since KCH is a central hospital, which supposed to play a major role in diabetes care for Malawi, however this pattern should be reflected. Likewise we state that patients seen in the ward (unpublished data)
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		with severe metabolic accidents do not seem to return in adequate proportion to the clinic. Thirdly, we state from the results that a number of patients do not seem to have a confirmed diagnosis of Diabetes. (Results 202-209) We add a sentence in the conclusion line 330: This group does not reflect the pattern of the epidemiological findings concerning diabetes from the STEPS survey (11), which shows for example a majority of males. Since KCH is a central hospital, which supposed to play a major role in diabetes care for Malawi, however this pattern should be reflected. Therefore we could answer the question “Are we treating the right people?” with “only partly”. Future efforts of the clinic should aim for better access and referrals for patients who need a special diabetes care including those coming from rural areas.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Abstract : 15.9% had an HbA1c <5.5%. Better not begin a sentence with a figure. Suggestion: And 15.9% had an HbA1c <5.5%. Lines 20-21: The global prevalence of diabetes in 2013 reached approximately 382 million... About what? Next sentence seems to clarify. Suggestion: During waiting time, a retired nurse gives non-standardized short sessions on health education about. Lines 57-58: During waiting time, a retired nurse gives non-standardized short sessions on health education about. About what? Next sentence seems to clarify. Suggestion: During waiting time, a retired nurse gives non-standardized short sessions on health education about. Line 138: Twenty –eight % : Suggestion: Twenty –eight percent	Corrected I think there was a mistake here. Most likely the question for this section (if there was one) was mistakenly replaced by the wrong question. Please could you clarify this section? This sentence ist not clear and belongs to the below sentence? about diabetes symptoms and complications. Corrected
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		