

Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Prevalence of Hypertension in Renal Patients in Iran: Methodological Issues on Reporting

To Editor,

We read with great interest the review article "Prevalence of Hypertension in Renal Diseases in Iran: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis" by Motedayen *et al.*, published in *Int J Prev Med* 2019.^[1]

Although the reviewers have presented the process of systematic search via Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, there is a slight concordance between reported details and the PRISMA guidelines.

1. The reviewers have not provided details of the information on systematic search of the literature including full search strategy or combining of terms strategy. More detailed information for at least one database, as well as Boolean operations should be provided, to ensure that it could be repeated
2. The flowchart of systematic review should be presented at the results section. In this review, the flowchart for the search strategy process, the number of studies screened/include studies are presented in methods^[2]
3. Reviewers mentioned they used STROBE to assess methodological quality of studies. STROBE assesses the quality of reporting and is not meant to appraise the methodological quality of a study. Reviewers should consider appraising the articles with other validated measures appropriate. There is inadequate explanation about results of the quality assessment. The quality assessment of included studies in this review only provided data on used checklist and the document does not provide sufficient information about the quality assessment scores. This information should be reported to assess whether the quality of included studies were sufficient. The strength of the conclusions drawn in the systematic reviews depends on the included studies that meet a minimum standard of quality^[3]
4. In quality evaluation section, reviewers mentioned the prevalence of osteoporosis, while in text and aims of study they addressed the prevalence of hypertension
5. As a systematic review study, arrange of the figures and tables of the study does not meet the standards of the journal which has been mentioned in guide for authors and arrange of the figures of this study has some errors. For example, the reviewers mentioned that the confidence interval for each study based on the random effects model is presented in Diagram 1. Mentioned diagram are not directly relative to the results of random effects model
6. To assess the publication bias in the meta-analyses of prevalence studies, the use of funnel plots is not

applicable, because the mentioned estimate discovered unpublished negative studies in clinical trials.^[2]

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**Maryam Mirzaei, Siavash Vaziri¹,
Mohammad Bagher Shamsi**

Department of Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine, School of Allied Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran, ¹Department of Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah, Iran

Address for correspondence:

*Dr: Mohammad Bagher Shamsi,
School of Allied Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Dowlatabad Street, Kermanshah, Iran.
E-mail: mbshamsi@yahoo.com*

Received: 24 Sep 19 Accepted: 26 Sep 19

Published: 11 Dec 2020

References

1. Motedayen M, Sarokhani D, Ghiasi B, Khatony A, Dehkordi AH. Prevalence of hypertension in renal diseases in Iran: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int J Prev Med* 2019;10:124.
2. Shamsi M, Arab-Zozani M, Mirzaei M. Methodological issue on reporting of systematic review of diagnostic accuracy of rapid ultrasound in shock. *Bull Emerg and Trauma* 2019;7:337-8.
3. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman D. PRISMA group. Methods of systematic reviews and meta-analysis preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA statement. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2009;62:1006-12.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

| Access this article online | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quick Response Code:  | Website: www.ijpvmjournal.net/www.ijpm.ir |
| | DOI: 10.4103/ijpvm.IJPVM_350_19 |

How to cite this article: Mirzaei M, Vaziri S, Shamsi MB. Systematic review and meta-analysis of prevalence of hypertension in renal patients in Iran: Methodological issues on reporting. *Int J Prev Med* 2020;11:192.

© 2019 International Journal of Preventive Medicine | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknow