



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_7251
Title of the Manuscript:	Prevalence, characteristics of and risk factors for early pediatric mortality at Zomba Central Hospital, Malawi
Type of the 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)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	Title: prevalence should be removed from the title and key words since it is impossible to calculate the prevalence in a case control design. Abstract: Remove retrospective from the design Results subsection: It is not advisable to use figures at the beginning of a statement. Introduction: It is well written, retrospective and prevalence should be removed from the aim statement. Results: It is too long and confusing. Figures presented in the manuscript and in most of instances are not matching with what is found in the tables. It is better to do case control analysis in order to find crude OR, 95% CI and P-value followed by stepwise logistic regression analysis which will show the adjusted OR with its 95% CI and p value. You can find the way of case control analysis and formulation of its tables in any text book of epidemiology. Discussion: well written I hope you will change it according to what will be found in the results. Conclusion: The conclusion does not support the data, discussed inside the manuscript? References: You should follow the referencing style of the journal in writing the manuscript and in making the references list. All the references cited relevant and adequate?	1. Title: We have changed the title to the following "Characteristics of and risk factors for early pediatric mortality at Zomba Central Hospital, Malawi" 2. Abstract: We have removed retrospective from the design and altered the first sentence of the results section accordingly. 3. Introduction: We have removed retrospective and prevalence from the aim statement. 4. Results and Discussion: Thank you for your thorough review and comments. We have changed the following as per your suggestions: - We have deleted the p-values throughout for non-significant values. - We have altered the Figure 1 to your suggestions. - We have reconciled the values in the tables and text. - We removed suggested statements from the results such as "reflecting the seasonal burden of malaria during the study period". - We have carefully reviewed your editing. Regarding your suggestion to reorganize the tables to reflect the ORs, we do not feel this would provide the most meaningful communication of our data. Because of the limited nature of this data we have presented primarily descriptive statistics, and



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	Language: English editing is needed.	then along with a description of ORs within the results text which arose from subset analysis or further description that does not fit well into the tables. We feel this format is consistent with common practice in scientific paper writing as it avoids duplicating results in the tables from those in the descriptive text. 5. Conclusions: We have changed the conclusion to the following: “With significant rates of early pediatric mortality on presentation to health care facilities in settings such Malawi, improvements must be made in the early identification of children at risk of mortality. Additionally, we identify several areas for quality improvement of care which include assessment and strengthening of referring health centre capacity and availability of emeeny interventions (ie. antibiotics and transfusions)” 6. Language: We have thoroughly edited the manuscript.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	No comments	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	No comments	