

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59147

Title: Provenance géographique et déterminants de la mortalité hospitalière des enfants admis pour malnutrition aiguë sévère à N'Djamena (Tchad) : une étude de cohorte rétrospective.

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
 ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- Important public health topic
- Large cohort of 796 children
- Clear study objectives
- Retrospective cohort design is appropriate
- Clinical and geographical factors are assessed
- Multivariable logistic regression is used
- Mortality timing is clearly described
- Results are presented with confidence intervals
- Practical implications for community screening are discussed

Weakness of the study:

- Single centre study limits generalisation
- Data are from 2020 and may not reflect current practice
- Several geographical categories are approximate
- Missing residential information affects some analyses
- Some important variables may be incompletely recorded
- Traditional practices were based on registry documentation
- Small numbers limit analysis of septic shock
- Causal conclusions cannot be established
- Grammar and formatting need careful correction

Reviewers Comments:

The manuscript addresses an important public health problem and presents a useful analysis of mortality among children admitted with severe acute malnutrition in N'Djamena. The large cohort, clear objectives and use of multivariable analysis are important strengths. Ethical clearance is not clearly reported in the manuscript, although the study uses retrospective hospital records. The authors should state whether institutional ethical approval or a waiver for retrospective data use was obtained. The study is limited by its single centre design, retrospective nature and reliance on routinely recorded information. Geographical classification and community screening coverage are also approximate, which should be explained more clearly. The very small number of children with septic shock makes the antibiotic comparison descriptive only, and the manuscript appropriately acknowledges this limitation. Grammar, spacing, punctuation and sentence construction require substantial editing, particularly in the French text. Overall, the study is relevant and potentially useful, but ethical documentation, methodological clarification and language revision are required.

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Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

An exact title search did not identify the same publication in the searched sources. The manuscript addresses a topic related to previously published studies on severe acute malnutrition, mortality and geographical access to healthcare, including studies from Africa. The present study appears to have a distinct dataset and setting. A formal similarity check is recommended before publication.