## Research Article

## Cardiology: Open Access

# Prevalence and Associated Factors of Hypertension among Assosa town, WesternEthiopia, 2018 

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Submitted: 03 Jun 2020; Accepted: 10 Jun 2020; Published: 20 July 2020


#### Abstract

Background: Hypertension, the global first and third risk for mortality and disease burden respectively, is recording an increment in Sub-Saharan Africa countries. This study aimed to identify prevalence and its associated risk factor of Hypertension in the Assosa town.

Objective: To identify prevalence and factors associated with hypertension in the study area to increase it's prevention and control methods.

Methods \& materials: Institutional based cross sectional study design with quota non-probability sampling technique was conducted among patients visited OPD units of Assosa General Hospital (AGH) and Assosa Health Center (AHC) from March to June 2018. All outpatients were included. To collect data, pre-tested structured questionnaire and face to face interviews were used. Components of statistical research software SPSS version-21 like frequency table, chi-square test of independence \& logistic regression was used to enter, analyze, summarize and characterize disease and associated factors data.

Result: The study was conducted among 194 participants ( 152 from AGH and 42 from AHC) with 102 males and 92 females. Prevalence of hypertension among patients visited outpatient units of Assosa General Hospital and Assosa Health Center was $17.5 \%$, and was slightly highest in male than female. Associated factors for hypertension among patients visited OPD units of AGH \& AHC were history of hypertension in the family ( $C I=95 \%$ and $C O R=4.497$ (1.133-17.844) and being private employee ( $C I=95 \%$ and $C O R=0.0017$ (0.001-0.407).

Conclusion \& recommendation: Prevalence of HTN in the Assosa town, was low and influenced by some risk factors like work status and previous family history of hypertension. Even if usual usage of salt and using vegetable oil was not associated factor, being private employee were independent factor of HTN. In-depth study is recommended for further investigation. To increase preventative methods of HTN, health education supported by mass media, illustrative posters and another strategies at every government \& non government work sector are recommended.


Keywords: Prevalence, Hypertension, OPD, AGH, AHC
Abbreviations \& Acronyms
AGH: Assosa General Hospital
AHC: Assosa Health Center
AOR: Adjusted Odd Ratio
B/G/R: Benishengul-Gumuz Region
CI : Confidence Interval
COR: Crude Odd Ratio
CVD: Cardio vascular disease
DM: Diabetes Mellitus
HTN: Hypertension
IESO: Integrated Emergency Surgical Officer
JUSH: Jimma University Referral Hospital
LMIC: Low Middle Income Countries
MMD: Major Depression Disorder

Mmhg: Millimeter of Mercury<br>MRFIT: Multiple Risk Factor Intervention trial<br>OPD: Out Patient Department<br>PHO: Public Health Officer<br>STEPs: Step wise approach to surveillance<br>USA: United States of America<br>WHO: World Health Organization

## Introduction

Hypertension due to concomitant increment in its prevalence and risk of disease is global public health challenge. According to the 2010 data, global non-communicable disease reported that between 1980 and 2008, number of hypertensive patient was hiked from six hundred million to one billion and it can be predicted to raise to 1.5 billion by the year 2025 [1]. Viewing from the angle of economic level, HTN is highly prevalent in the Low and Middle

Income countries (LMIC). Globally, we lost about 9.4 million people by HTN every year [2]. Despite another fatal health risk and burden from high blood pressure is going upward across the world, impairing estimably around 1 billion, it is predicted to increases, especially in low, lower middle income countries than high income countries [3]. Among World Health Organization (WHO) coun-try-consideration for HTN based on tangible data, Africa scored highest prevalence with the prevalence of $46 \%$ which included combination of both sex groups. Blood pressure can be described by the two functionally interlinked fractional finding. These values are called systolic blood pressure (SBP) and Diastolic blood pressure (DBP) which represents the upper and the lower value respectively.

The standard unit of blood pressure is millimeter mercury (mmhg). Though it has little insignificant difference based on dif- ferent reference, averagely blood pressure of between $90 / 60 \mathrm{mmhg}$ and $120 / 80 \mathrm{mmhg}$ is considered as normal; but, any record of below $90 / 60$ and above 120/80 is abnormal and have high risk which may result death if not immediately controlled medically. Low arterial blood pressure is called hypotension; while high arterial blood pressure is called hypertension. Recording of blood pressure between $120 / 80 \mathrm{mmHg}$ to $139 / 89$ is termed as pre-hypertension and any record above 140/90 is considered high. An elevation of both blood pressure i.e, systolic and diastolic blood pressure increases the risk of developing heart disease, kidney disease, hardening of the arteries, eye damage, and a stroke which is called end organ damage as it is the end result of chronic high blood pressure. Sometimes HTN is called 'Silent Killer' by some clinicians because most of the time, it remains silence in the early stage and manifests symptoms only after damaging body organ and finally results with death. These symptoms are usually a result of end-organ damage and the presentation depends on the organ that is affected [4]. Essential hypertension expresses another circumference of hypertension in which cause of hypertension is unknown and comprises $90 \%$ among total prevalence of the condition [5]. Cardiovascular diseases are group of diseases which are due to impairment of heart and veins of the body organ. They are major risk of death in the developed country and Hypertension is their major risk factor. According to data of Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT), in the United States of America (USA), likelihood of mortality from coronary heart disease among mild to severe hypertensive patient was varied between 2.3-6.9 higher than among those who have normal blood pressure; and the likelihood of developing stroke among hypertensive patients were varied between 3.6-19.2 higher than those of normal blood pressure. And additionally, in general population of USA, $23 \%-25.6 \%$ of death from coronary artery disease and $6.8 \%-40 \%$ of death from stroke could be preventable if hypertension was prevented. Opposite to direct logical prediction, rather than developed countries, developing countries are more affected by non-communicable diseases.

WHO estimated that about $80 \%$ of chronic disease deaths occur in low and middle income countries and in Sub Saharan countries, hypertension causes to 7.5 million deaths, among about $12.8 \%$ of the total annual deaths [6,7]. In the developed countries, numerous
studies have been conducted to estimate frequency of HTN but in the low incoming countries like Ethiopia due to more attention is given to communicable disease, there is data shortage on prevalence and its associated factors in entire population and specifically among vulnerable groups who are more predisposed to HTN and other related disorders than general population. Previously, there was no study conducted on the Assosa general hospital (AGH) and Assosa health center (AHC) as well as in Assosa town community to represent the study population with the same topic. Thus the purpose of this study is to identify the prevalence and it's associated risk factors of hypertension in Assosatown.

## Materials and Methods

## Study setting

Two study institution that were used to conduct this study were: AGH which have been serving population of more than 750,000 and AHC which have been serving more than 30,000 populations.

Since these health institutions are the only governmental health institutions that are found in Assosa town, capital city of Benis-hangul-Gumuz regional state, they were purposely selected to represent prevalence and related risk factors of HTN among Assosa town population. Assosa town is located on the North western of Ethiopia by the 675 km distance from Addis Ababa, capital of the Ethiopia.

AGH has now 22 Medical doctors, 96 nurses, 15 midwifes, 4 IESOs, 2 Anaesthesia's, 2 Psychiatrics, 12 Pharmacicts and 3 general Specialists. And it has 4 wards namely, Medical ward ( 30 beds), surgical ward ( 24 beds), Pediatric ward ( 25 beds) and Maternity ward ( 26 beds). It has also 13 OPDs which is serving averagely 300500 outpatients daily. AHC has 31 Nurses, 9 Midwifes, 5 PHOs, 3 Pharmacists and 3 Medical doctors with 10OPDs

## Study design and sample size

An institution based cross sectional study was conducted at Assosa general hospital \& Assosa health center. Sample size was determined by using statistical formula, $\mathrm{n}=\mathrm{Z} 2 \mathrm{Pq} / \Delta 2$. taking confidence interval $95 \%$ (1.96), Proportion of hypertension $13.2 \%$ ( 0.132 ) which was taken from hospital based cross sectional study conducted on JUSH \& margin of error as 0.05 and Assuming non-response rate as $10 \%$, the final sample size would become, $n=176+17.6=194$ [8].

## Sampling methodology

Proportional allocation was made for each health institution and quota non-probability sampling technique was used to include all patients visiting outpatient units of AGH and AHC to represent entire population of the town. Assosa general hospital and Assosa health center have 23,867 and 6,608 registered patients respectively within three months of the past year which have highest patient flow. Since 194 samples are required for this study, 152 samples from AGH and 42 from AHC were randomly selected using quota nan-probability sampling method from all OPDs according to their willingness and eligibility criteria. Since all outpatients have different appointment duration, and time of this study is short, probability sampling method was not used. Prior to starting study
question, the importance of the study was deeply informed and if they found difficult to participate they excluded from the study. If randomly selected patient was ineligible or not volunteer to participate, the next available patient was selected based on inclusion criteria until required sample size was met. The further illustration of used sampling methodology is shown below.


Figure1: Sampling methodology

## Selection of study subjects

Inclusion criteria
All out patients aged 18 years and above who were visiting outpatient units of AGH and AHC during the study period were enrolled in to study based on their willingness and eligibility to participate in the study.

## Exclusion criteria

All outpatients who are presented with severe and critical medical conditions, mental disorder, traumatic and other emergency patients were excluded from the study

## Tools and techniques of the study

Face to face questionnaire was composed of open-ended and closeended questions which was administered to collect data of sociodemography life style, genetic and family related factors \& presence of other medical diseases or condition. The questionnaire was prepared by the English language and then translated to Amharic version as the most respondents are speaker of Amharic language. Questions included in the questionnaire are adapted from World Health Organization STEP wise approach to surveillance
(STEPS) instrument for collecting data on chronic diseases and their risk factors. After the interview, the study participant was allowed to rest (relax) for 15 minutes then two blood pressure measurements were taken three minutes apart in a sitting position and the average of the two reading was taken. The blood pressure was measured on the left upper arm. The participant was positioned in such a way that the left upper arm was at the same level with the heart. To minimize measurement and inter observer variability, digital BP machine was used throughout the study and all blood pressure measurements was done by one qualifiedperson.

## Ethical consideration

Prior to data collection, formal ethical clearance letter was obtained from Assosa University, college of health science and research directorate bureau. Then as the request by the former letter, support letter was attained from $B / G / R$ health bureau, Assosa, Benishangul-Gumuz region and from B/G health bureau. Final integrated letter was sent to respective woreda health office and AGH and then to health center. In addition, before commencing data collection, informed consent was obtained from each participant after expressing objective the study purposely. For positively volunteered participants, it was also informed that they can terminate at anywhere in the face-to-face interview. All information collected from each respondent was kept confidential.

Definitions used
Hypertension: Is a condition in which arterial blood pressure is increased beyond it's normal value i.e., above $140 / 90 \mathrm{mmhg}$ and measured by mmhg.

Table 1: Classification of blood pressure

| Classification | Systolic value | Diastolic value |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hypotension | $<90$ | $<60$ |
| Normal BP | $90-119$ | $60-79$ |
| Prehypertension | $120-139$ | $80-89$ |
| HTN stage 1 | $140-159$ | $90-99$ |
| HTN stage 2 | $\geq 160$ | $\geq 100$ |

Physical activity: A condition in which body is move for the minimum of at 10 minutes continuously to increase breathing rate and heart beat.

Prevalence: the number of all new and old cases of a disease or occurrences of an event during a particular period. Prevalence is expressed as a ratio in which the number of events is the numerator and the population at risk is the denominator.

Risk factor: is an independent variable which can associated with an increased risk of disease or infection. Sometimes, determinant is also used, being a variable associated with either increased or decreased risk.

Data processing and analysis
Data was entered, cleaning \& analyzing by using SPSS version-21. After raw data was entered in to SPSS, it was secured by computer password to save from losing. In order to check accuracy and missed value of data, frequency run procedure was performed on software. Lastly, data was coded to simplify for analysis.

Quantitative characteristics of data like frequency, mean, media and standard deviation were computed to quantify collected data. To test association between hypertension and independent variables, binary logistic regression model was used. Degree of association was expressed using odds ratio using confidence interval $95 \%$, and p-value less than 0.05 and final data description used the form
of text, tables and figures.

## Results

## Socio demographic characteristics

Out of the $194,102(52.6 \%)$ are male \& 92(47.4\%) were females. Only $41(21 \%)$ was below 25 age and $79 \%$ were above 25 age with maximum and minimum age of 72 and 19 respectively. Median of the age is 33 , mean age for the male and female are 39 and 34 respectively with the total mean of 37 . Most study participant $(58.8 \%)$ were married with the greater number of female (51.8\%). All finding of socio- demographic was described on the following table.

Table 2: The socio-demographic characteristics sitting among patients visited outpatient units of Assosa General Hospital and Assosa Health Center ( $\mathrm{n}=194$ )

| S.N | variable |  | Frequency | Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Educational level | 1-8 <br> 9-12 <br> University degree <br> Masters degree <br> Above masters degree <br> None | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 13 \\ & 39 \\ & 44 \\ & 11 \\ & 4 \\ & 83 \end{aligned}$ | 6.7 20 22.7 5.67 2 42.8 |
| 2 | Religion | Orthodox <br> Protestant <br> Catholic <br> Muslim | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 69 \\ & 59 \\ & 56 \\ & 10 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 35.6 \\ 30.4 \\ 5.2 \\ 28.9 \end{array}$ |
| 3 | Sex | Male <br> Female | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 102 \\ 92 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 52.6 \\ 47.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| 4 | Monthly income in birr | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 100-1000 \\ & 1100-2000 \\ & 2100-3000 \\ & 3100-4000 \\ & 4100-5000 \\ & >5000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 40 \\ 47 \\ 54 \\ 28 \\ 14 \\ 11 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 20.6 \\ 24.2 \\ 27.8 \\ 14.4 \\ 7.2 \\ 5.7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| 5 | Marital status | Single <br> Married <br> Divorce <br> Separated-coexisted Widowed | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline 44 \\ 114 \\ 25 \\ 11 \\ 2 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 21.6 \\ 58.8 \\ 12.9 \\ 5.7 \\ 1 \end{array}$ |
| 6 | Work status | Gov't employee <br> Non-gov't employee <br> Self employee <br> House wife <br> Peasant <br> Other | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 35 \\ & 27 \\ & 42 \\ & 34 \\ & 27 \\ & 29 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 18 \\ 13.9 \\ 21.6 \\ 17.5 \\ 13.9 \\ 14 . \end{array}$ |
| 7 | Age | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline 18-25 \\ 26-33 \\ 34-41 \\ 42-49 \\ \geq 50 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 41 \\ & 57 \\ & 31 \\ & 24 \\ & 41 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 21.1 \\ & 29.4 \\ & 16.0 \\ & 12.4 \\ & 21.1 \end{aligned}$ |

## Lifestyle

## Alcohol consumption

Prevalence of alcohol consumption was $24.2 \%$ (47) with 33 males ( $70.2 \%$ ) and 14 females ( $29.8 \%$ ). 31 participants ( $66 \%$ ) had minimum of one heavy drinking episodes per month with the medi- an number of 2 . where heavy drinking expressed as $(\geq 5$ standard drinks/day in males or $\geq 4$ in females. The frequency of drinking alcohol was generally low.

## Smoking

Prevalence of smoking was $2.6 \%$. All smoker respondents were using cigarettes. No evidence of smoking in female was occurred. For current smokers, the median duration of smoking was 3 years and the median number of duration of smocking was 1 hour.

## Physical inactivity

The prevalence of current physical inactivity in Assosa town was $49.5 \%$ (96), with $45(46.9 \%$ ) in male and $51(53.1 \%$ ) in female. Among 98(50.5\%) that was physically active, $57(58.2 \%)$ was male and $41(41.8 \%)$ was female. Those 98 current physical active was doing vigorous vigorous intensity activity that increases heart rate such as carrying or lifting heavy loads building work, medium intensity activity such as, walking or carrying simple loads for at least 10 minutes per day continuously.

These physical activity was practicable during both regular work and recreation. Daily duration of the time spent was shown on the following table.

Table 3: Daily duration of time spent by sitting among patients visited outpatient units of AGH \& AHC (n=194)

| Total daily duration of time spent <br> by sitting in hour | Frequency | Percent(\%) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 27 | 13.9 |
| 2 | 75 | 38.7 |
| 3 | 69 | 35.6 |
| 4 | 15 | 7.7 |
| 5 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | 3 | 1.5 |
| 8 | 2 | 1 |

## Diet

Majority of the participant 120 ( $61.9 \%$ ) was eating fruits and vegetables 2 times/day .. Prevalence of of adding salt to the food was $90.2 \%$ ( 92 male) and ( 83 female). Regarding the type of usually using oil, prevalence of usually using vegetable oil was high (63.9\%). Frequency and percentage of diet with its type was described by the
following table and pie chart
Table4: Frequency of daily eatingbothfruit and vegetableamong patients visited outpatient unit of AGH and AHC ( $n=194$ )

| S.N | Variable | Daily frequency | Frequency | Per cent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Daily frequency of eating table salt | $\begin{aligned} & <1 \text { time/ } \\ & \text { day } \end{aligned}$ | 6 | 3 |
|  |  | 1 time/day | 65 | 33.5 |
|  |  | 2 time/day | 120 | 61.9 |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \geq 3 \text { times/ } \\ & \text { day } \end{aligned}$ | 3 | 1.5 |
| 2 | Number of days that table salt is used | Always | 175 | 90.2 |
|  |  | Not eat | 19 | 9.8 |

According to following pie chart, 164 participant or $84.5 \%$ of them were used vegetable oil, but $12.4 \%$ or 24 of them used both vegetable oil and butter but, only 6 of them or $3 \%$ used only butter.


Figure 2: Type of oil used by Asossa population town, 2018.

## Family History

Prevalence of family history of HTN was 35.1(68\%) and prevalence of family history of DM was $17.1 \%$ (33). The following table shows prevalence and complication of Hypertension in the family.

Table 5: Prevalence of family history of HTN, complication of HTN in the family and prevalence of family history of DM among patients visited outpatient unit of Assosa General Hospital and Assosa Health Center 2018 ( $\mathbf{n}=194$ )

| S. no | Variable | Frequency | Percent |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Family history of HTN | Yes | 68 | 35.1 |
|  |  | No | 126 | 64.9 |
| 2 | Complication of HTN in the family | Yes | 23 | 11.9 |
|  |  | No | 171 | 88.1 |
| 3 | Family history of DM | Yes | 33 | 17.1 |
| 4 | Presence of complication diseases of HTN | No | 61 | 83 |
|  |  | Stroke | 13 | 6.7 |
|  |  | Kidney disease | 2 | 1 |
|  |  | Other | 7.6 |  |
|  |  | Family member who have history of HTN | Father | 0.5 |
|  |  | Mother | 7.7 |  |
|  |  | Sibling of father | 14 | 11.2 |
|  |  | Sibling of mother | 11 | 8.2 |
|  |  | Child | 6.2 |  |
|  |  | Parent of father | 1 | 0.5 |
|  |  | Parent of mother | 1 | 3.1 |

## Prevalence of hypertension

Prevalence of hypertension was $17.5 \%$. Of these $17.5 \%, 18(52.9 \%)$ were male and $16(47.1 \%)$ were a female. 22(64.7\%) were diagnosed two years back, $8(23.5 \%)$ were diagnosed three years back and $4(11.77 \%)$ were diagnosed in this year. Among hypertensive patients, Prehypertension stage 1 HTN and stage 2 HTN accounted $64.7 \%, 20.5 \%$ and $14.7 \%$ respectively. Out of these 34(17.5) hypertensive patients $12(35 \%)$ had some disease complication as follows. 2 of them or $1 \%$ have complication of heart failure, Another 2 of them had Type 1 Diabetic complication, and 6 of them ( $3 \%$ ) had complication of acute gastritis. 1 patient had also complication of asthma and another 1 patient have psychotic disorder of Major Depression Disorder (MDD) which was assessed from medical chart of the patient.
Risk factors for hypertension
Table 6: Multivariate association between Socio-demography, genetic \& family related factors, life style and comorbidity among patients visited outpatient unit of AGH and AHC, ( $n=194$ )

| s.no | Variable |  | Hyperte <br> nsive | Non- <br> hypert ensive | 95\% CI COR | 95\% CI AOR |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Work | Gov‘t employee | 5 | 30 | 1 | P- val- <br> ue |


| 3 | Marital <br> status | Single | 3 | 39 | 1 |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Discussion

This study shown prevalence of HTN in Assosa town (17.5\%) is higher that of Cameroon which is $12.1 \%$ but comparable to Tanzania which has prevalence of $23.7 \%$ [9]. This may be due to history of the HTN in the family. Regarding the sex difference, Like Mozambique and unlike Turkey, it is higher in the male than in
the female which was $52.9 \%$, this slight difference may be due to physical activity [10]. Among Assosa town community, as their age increase, the prevalence of HTN increase, which is comparable to that of Turkey in which prevalence of HTN in 20-29 years and 60-69 years age group is $16.9 \%$ and $84.4 \%$ respectively [11]. In Africa the increment of prevalence of HTN with age was recorded
in Egypt where the prevalence was $7.8 \%$ among young age group (25-34) years and $59.4 \%$ among old age group (65-74) years [12].

Biologically, the more we gets order, the more arterial pressure increase because, age positively affects thickening of artery. In this study, being private employee was one of the significant factor for hypertension which may be related to high monthly income which will be estimated to cause high consuming of vegetable oil and table salt. Private employees were 0.0017 times likely to be hypertensive than government employee But in this study, high salt intake, consuming vegetable oil and high monthly income were not statistically significant. Hence, there may be some linkage factors behind high work status and prevalence of hypertension. It should need another study. Even though it was not statistically significant, being married is another risk factor for HTN. This shown that there may be another variable (s) that was (were) not included in this study which may be psycho-social and stress which needs further study to dig it out. Though it is estimated that heavy alcohol drinkers i.e, those who drinks above two drinks per day have one and half to two high frequency of Hypertension than nondrinkers and notable effect of hypertension is common when alcohol drinking exceeds five drinks per day, in this study alcohol drinking associated to hypertension insignificantly [13]. Frequently and excessive use of alcohol increase obesity which gradually thickens blood arteries of the body in which blood flows to different parts and organs of the body; on the other hand it increases blood pressure and other cardiovascular diseases from complication of high blood pressure. Among Assosa town community, since number of alcohol consumer were small, it was impossible to stratify different categories of drinking to assess their association and effects on blood pressure. The effects of continuous dietary salt intake on blood pressure were identified using many and different study designs like experimental and interventional studies; however in this study the bivariate analysis effect of dietary salt intake was insignificant and shown salt intake is not independent predictor for hypertension [14]. This may be due to advice given for hypertensive patient to reduce salt in their daily food and for in-depth exploration further study with quantity of daily salt intake is demanded. Because even if quantity of salt intake at household level can be minimized, about $80 \%$ of salt is commercially available anywhere.

Though physical inactivity was not statistical significance of this study, more than half of physically inactive outpatients visited AGH and AHC was hypertensive. Accordingly, since magnitude of physical inactivity was greater than in female, it may beestimated that future prevalence of HTN in female will be greater than of male in that population.

According to study, among Assosa town population presence of HTN history in the family strongly affects prevalence of the HTN. In Assosa town population, the likelihood of developing hypertension among those who have history of HTN in their family is 4.497 times higher than those who have not history of HTN in their family. This proves the relationship between genetics and hypertension and regular screening and follow up even in the non-hypertensive
condition to prevent potential burden and complication. Among those who have family history of HTN, despite most of them have hypertensive mothers relatively, since it was insufficient number to compute stratified analysis other independent variables. So it was impossible to identify in which sex family history of hypertension is prevalent. In this case, another case study and case control study may identify and explore association between sex and history of HTN in the family to determine their effect on the prevalence of HTN.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The prevalence of hypertension among Assosa town was consistency with nearly one-fourth of that of U.S.A, nearly half of that of urban Varanasi, Hindia and of that of Gondor and also twice of that of Southern Ethiopia [9,15,16]. Prevalence of HTN in the Assosa town is higher in males, and increase as age increase. Prevalence of hypertension in this study area is affected by history of hypertension in the family (mainly in the mother) and work status like being private employee.

The following recommendations were given to the Benishan- gulGumuz region and Assosa town health bureau health bureau to provide the following services in corporation with Assosa General Hospital and Assosa Health Center.

- To conduct further in-depth study using different study designs like case study and cohort to identify associated factors that increase susceptibility of high work status and relationship of HTN with sex difference, association between dietary salt intake and HTN and effects of other factors like smoking and other comorbidity diseases like DM.
- To provide health education on preventative methods of hypertension like decreasing salt in the food, not using smoking and having regular body exercise.
- To conduct a regular surveillance to identify and explore risk factors of hypertension which will be used for considering revision of current health policy specially at regional level based on the comprehensive finding and assist in, providing, monitoring and evaluating health education and promotion programs.
- To initiate communities for screening and clinical follow up mainly for those who have history of HTN in their family.
- To provide the community with the recent information and update preventative strategy using various methods nlike mass media, announcements and posters and another means.
- Combining with the local NGOs, to focus on the problemand initiate employees of every sectors of work to direct their attention on associated risk factors of to prevent HTN and other related cardiovascular diseases and complication disease [1728].


## Limitations of the study

- Causal association of variables were not examined as it is cross sectional study.
- Lack of resource as previous conducted study on the same area and topic is unavailable.
- Number of alcohol drinkers and cigarrete smokers were not large enough to compare with dependent variable.
- Number of most reported family who have HTN in those who have family history of HTN was insufficient to associate with sex.
- Magnitude of complication disease of HTN was not large enough to compare with prevalence of HTN


## Acknowledgements

Frist and foremost, I would like to express my deep \& sincere gratitude to creator of mine, scholar of heaven \& earth, Almighty God for his infinite help and encouragement in all aspects of this study, from beginning to end. Next, I'm indebted to my academic supervisor, instructor Tesfu Zewdu (BSc, MSc) for his continuous comment, assistance, evaluation and advice. Indeed, this study benefited immeasurably from the input i got from Assosa University, College of health sciences \& Department of Nursing. Lastly but not the least, every individuals, groups, institutions, departments and others those who are not mentioned here are pillars of my study through which I succeeded. It is my great pleasure to say you all thanks a most. Great is the exuded contribution in which you played a major role in improving your community health through!

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