

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55676

**Title: Degenerative Complications of Type 2 Diabetes: A Cross-Sectional Study in a Moroccan Population**

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

Accept after minor revision.....

**Accept after major revision .....x.....**

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

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

**Reviewer Name: Dr. Mohammad Nadeem Khan**

## Detailed Reviewer's Report

### 1. General Assessment

The manuscript presents a descriptive and analytical cross-sectional study evaluating the prevalence and determinants of microangiopathic and macroangiopathic complications among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus in a Moroccan tertiary care setting. The topic is clinically relevant and addresses an important public health concern, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where the burden of diabetes-related complications is rising. The manuscript is generally well structured, with clear sections and appropriate use of tables. The findings contribute region-specific epidemiological data that may be valuable for clinicians and policymakers. However, several methodological, analytical, and presentation issues require attention before the manuscript can be considered for publication.

### 2. Major Comments

#### Study Design and Scope

- The cross-sectional design is appropriate for estimating prevalence; however, causal inferences should be avoided. Statements implying causality (e.g., insulin therapy “leading to” complications) should be rephrased to reflect associations.
- The study duration (two months) is relatively short and should be acknowledged more explicitly as a limitation, particularly regarding representativeness and seasonal variability.

#### Ethical Considerations

- The manuscript states that ethical committee approval was not required. While the use of routine clinical data may justify this, most international journals require at least institutional review board

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acknowledgment or waiver documentation. The authors should clarify institutional policy and include a formal ethics statement.

### Statistical Analysis

- The rationale for grouping patients into three complication categories is appropriate; however, multivariate analysis is absent.
- A multivariable logistic regression adjusting for age, sex, diabetes duration, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and obesity would strengthen the conclusions regarding factors associated with micro- and macroangiopathy.
- The choice of JAMOV software is acceptable, but the version and specific statistical assumptions (normality testing, handling of missing data) should be stated more clearly.

### Interpretation of Results

- The association between poor glycemic control, insulin therapy, and microangiopathy is interesting but potentially confounded by disease duration and severity. This should be discussed more cautiously.
- The discussion would benefit from comparison with **recent international cohorts** (post-2020) to improve global contextualization.

## 3. Minor Comments

### Language and Style

- The manuscript contains multiple typographical errors, spacing issues, and formatting inconsistencies (e.g., “diabetes,” “withseriousconsequences,” inconsistent spacing).
- Professional language editing is strongly recommended.

### Tables and Presentation

- Tables 1 and 2 are informative but would benefit from:
  - Clear footnotes explaining abbreviations
  - Consistent decimal formatting
  - Explicit indication of statistically significant p-values using symbols (\*)

### References

- Several references are outdated (pre-2015). Inclusion of more recent guidelines (e.g., ADA/EASD updates post-2021) is recommended.
- Web references should include access dates and be formatted uniformly according to journal guidelines.

### Strengths of the Study

- Addresses an important clinical problem in a real-world hospital setting
- Includes both microvascular and macrovascular complications

# International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

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- Uses standardized diagnostic criteria for complications
- Provides valuable epidemiological data from North Africa, an under-represented region in diabetes research

### Limitations

- Cross-sectional design limits causal inference
- Small sample size reduces statistical power
- Lack of multivariate adjustment
- Absence of data on diet, physical activity intensity, medication adherence, and socioeconomic status