Prevalence of chronic kidney disease and associated factors among patients with chronic illness in Ethiopia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

SAGE Open Medicine Volume 10: 1-9 © The Author(s) 2022 Article reuse guidelines: sagepub.com/journals-permissions DOI: 10.1177/20503121221089442 journals.sagepub.com/home/smo



Zelalem Animaw¹, Gashaw Walle Ayehu¹, and Hussen Abdu²

Abstract

Objective: The main aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis is to provide summarized evidence on the prevalence of chronic kidney disease and associated factors among patients with chronic illness in Ethiopia.

Method: Databases of MEDLINE/PubMed, Embase, Google Scholar, CINAHL, Cochrane library, and ScienceDirect were searched. In addition, gray literatures were searched manually from university repositories. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses checklist was used to select potential studies. Microsoft Excel 2013 sheet template was used to extract data. The quality of included studies was assessed by utilizing the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale. STATA software version 14.0 is used to compute the estimated pooled prevalence and associated factors of chronic kidney disease. Result: Twelve articles that fulfilled the inclusion criteria were included. The pooled estimate of chronic kidney disease among patients with chronic illnesses in Ethiopia is 21.71% (95% confidence interval: 17.67, 25.74). The highest prevalence of chronic kidney disease among patients with chronic illnesses is from Oromia (32.55% (confidence interval: 19.91, 45.19)). Glomerular filtration rate showed a comparable pooled prevalence from Cockroft-Gault and MDRD methods; 22.38% (confidence interval: 15.83, 28.92), 22.18 (confidence interval: 18.01, 26.34), respectively. Hypertensives become more likely to have chronic kidney disease compared with normotensive patients, (odds ratio = 3.01, 95% confidence interval: 1.33, 6.81). Conclusion: Prevalence of chronic kidney disease among chronic illness patients was significantly high. Hypertension is significantly associated with chronic kidney disease. Hence, we recommend that continuous screening of possible risk factors and proper follow-up and management strategies should be designed.

Keywords

Nephrology, epidemiology/public health, palliative medicine, chronic kidney disease, chronic diseases, prevalence

Date received: 20 July 2021; accepted: 6 March 2022

Introduction

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a global public health concern that spreads rapidly all over the world.^{1,2} It is manifested by albuminuria and glomerular filtration rate (GFR) < 60 mL/ min/1.73 m⁵ for at least 3 months regardless of clinical diagnosis.^{1,3} Increased incidences of hypertension and diabetes facilitated and escalate the morbidity and mortality rate due to CKD.^{2,4} The incidence of CKD is usually exacerbated in developing nations due to the co-occurrence of infectious causes that predisposes to CKD like chronic glomerulonephritis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).^{5,6} Consumption of nephrotoxic traditional medicinal plants also amplified the problem in Sub-Saharan African countries.^{7,8}

The increasing pattern of chronic diseases is also a double burden to Africans.9 Although old age populations are at high risk of developing CKD in the developed world, there are terrifying reports emerged stating young Africans are at

Corresponding author:

Gashaw Walle Ayehu, Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Debre Tabor University, P.O.BOX 272, Debre Tabor, Ethiopia.

Email: gashawwalle01@gmail.com

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¹Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Debre Tabor University, Debre Tabor, Ethiopia

²School of Medicine, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Wollo University, Dessie, Ethiopia

high risk of mortality and long-term disabilities when compared with their counterparts of the developed world.¹⁰ This further complicates the situation of economic constraints expended to tackle CKD which demands very expensive interventions including dialysis and kidney transplantation.¹¹ Since the treatment cost is unbearably high, preventive measures, and early detection were highly suggested mechanisms to mitigate the situation.^{12,13}

In Ethiopia, the emerging burden of noncommunicable disease becomes a serious public health concern which had a great impact on CKD.^{14,15} This is accompanied by poor knowledge of the early diagnosis of CKD.¹⁶ Besides its economic and medical impact, CKD becomes one of the reasons for psychological affections like depression in Ethiopia.¹⁷

A lot of factors are reported to be associated with the occurrence of CKD. Some of them are cholesterol level,¹⁸ body mass index (BMI),^{18,19} uncontrolled blood pressure age > 60, duration of noncommunicable diseases,^{20,21} and residence.²²

Even though CKD is a worrisome situation that can make a country like Ethiopia suffer from the economical and public health aspects, there is a serious information gap in the area.^{6,23} Therefore, this systematic review and meta-analysis aims at providing summarized evidence on the prevalence of CKD and associated factors among patients with chronic illness in Ethiopia.

Methods

Databases and search strategy

Both published and unpublished studies about the magnitude and associated factors of CKD in Ethiopia were thoroughly searched by two authors (Z.A. and G.W.) in the databases of MEDLINE/PubMed, Embase, Google Scholar, CINAHL, Cochrane library, and ScienceDirect. In addition, gray literatures were searched manually from university repositories. Reference lists of eligible studies were checked to maximize the inclusion of relevant studies. The search was not bounded by the year of publication. As a result, all articles published and/or reported up to June 30, 2020 were included. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) checklist was used to select potential studies.²⁴ Studies from MEDLINE/PubMed database were searched using the following Medical Science Heading (MeSH) terms: (((((("prevalence"(All Fields) OR "magnitude"(All Fields)) OR "epidemiology"(All Fields)) OR "incidence" (All Fields)) AND (("prevalence"(MeSH Terms) OR "epidemiology"(MeSH Terms)) OR "incidence"(MeSH Terms))) AND (("chronic kidney disease"(All Fields) OR "kidney disease" (All Fields)) OR ("kidney diseases" (MeSH Terms) OR "renal insufficiency"(MeSH Terms)))) AND ((("associated factor"(All Fields) OR "risk factor" (All Fields)) OR "predictors"(All Fields)) OR ("risk factors"(MeSH Terms) OR "predictor"(All Fields)))) AND ("Ethiopia"(All Fields) OR "Ethiopia"(MeSH Terms)). EndNote X7 was also used to manage the duplication of articles.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

All observational studies conducted in Ethiopia depicting magnitude and associated factors of CKD and written in English language done up to 30 June 2020 were included. However, inaccessible full-text articles due to non-responsiveness of the corresponding authors upon frequent inquiry through email by two authors (Z.A. and G.W.) and articles that did not provide calculably or reported odds ratios (Ors) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for associated factors were excluded

Data extraction

Microsoft Excel 2013 sheet template was used to extract data regarding authors name with publication year, study period, study design, study population, study area/region, type of GFR confirmatory equations used, GFR cut points, sample size, numbers of cases with CKD and prevalence of CKD among the total number of chronic patients. A two-by-two table was also used to address odds ratios from studies depicting factors associated with CKD and the factors included were age, sex, BMI, duration of hypertension, hypertension, diabetes mellitus (DM), and residence.

Quality assessment

The quality of included studies was assessed by three authors (Z.A., G.W., and A.M.) utilizing Newcastle-Ottawa Scale which enables to assess the quality of each article by their methodological merit, comparability caliber, and outcome excellence.²⁵ Arguments between the authors were addressed by discussion and articles were included after the authors reached an agreement.

Statistical analysis

STATA software version 14.0 is used to compute the estimated pooled prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic diseases and odds ratios of the associated factors. Heterogeneity among included studies was assessed using percentage of variance (I^2) and P value. Since statistically significant heterogeneity was found with I^2 =89.9% at Pvalue < 0.001, Random effect model was applied to estimate the pooled prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic diseases and summary odds ratios of factors associated with CKD. Sub-group analysis was also calculated based on the type of chronic disease, study region, type of equation used to determine GFR, and stages of CKD.

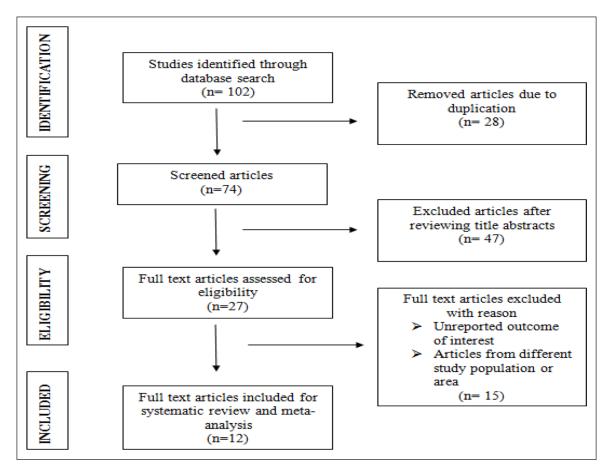


Figure 1. PRISMA chart flow depicting article selection process for systematic review and meta-analysis on the magnitude and associated factors among patients with chronic diseases.

Protocols and registration

This systematic review and meta-analysis is registered on PROSPERO under the registration number CRD42021224762 and can be accessed at https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO.

Results

Characteristics of studies

A systematic review and meta-analysis were done on 12 articles that fulfilled the inclusion criteria (Table 1). A total of 3766 patients (ranging from 163²⁶ to 568¹⁸) with chronic illnesses were involved in this study. The included studies were published from 2013²⁷ up to 2020²⁰,²⁸ (Figure 1). Except one study,¹⁹ all studies used a cross-sectional study design. The highest magnitude of CKD is reported from Jimma University medical center (38.9%)²⁹ while the least is from Zewditu memorial hospital (12.2%).³⁰ The studies were conducted in five different regions of the country; 4 from Addis Ababa,^{19,26,30,31} 4 from Amhara,^{20,21,27,28} 2 from Oromia,^{22,29} and 1 from SNNPR.³²

Meta-analysis

The pooled estimate of CKD among patients with chronic illnesses in Ethiopia is 21.71% (95% CI: 17.67, 25.74, P < 0.001). The meta-analysis showed significant heterogeneity across the studies with $I^2 = 89.9\%$, P < 0.001. As a result, the random effect model was used to compute the pooled estimate of CKD (Figure 2).

Publication bias

Begg's rank test and Egger's regression intercept tests were also carried out to indicate the correlation between the effect sizes and sampling variance to determine publication bias.³³ Based on Begg's and Egger's test results, the absence of significant publication bias was declared objectively (P > 0.05)

Sub-group analysis

A sub-group analysis based on study region revealed that the highest prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic illnesses is from Oromia (32.55% (CI: 19.91, 45.19)) while the

Article	Study period	Study design	Study population	Study area	Region	Equation used	Sample size	Cases	Prevalence	Newcastle Ottawa scale
Geletu et al. ¹⁹	January 2008–November 2017	Cohort	Diabetes mellitus patients	St. Paul's Hospital	Addis Ababa	Cockcroft- Gault	435	62	14.3%	8
Bahrey et al. ¹⁸	February–April, 2018	Cross- sectional	Hypertensive patients	Tigray hospitals	Tigray	Cockcroft- Gault	578	128	22.1%	7
Kore et al. ³⁰	20 October 2017–10 December 2017.	Cross- sectional	Nephrologic patients	Zewditu hospital	Addis Ababa	CKD-EPI	320	39	12.2%	7
Chala et al. ²⁶	September– November 2017	Cross- sectional	Cardiovascular patients	Tikur Anbesa Hospital	Addis Ababa	MDRD equation	163	39	23.9%	7
Alemu et al. ²⁰	2 April–31 July 2018	Cross- sectional	Diabetes mellitus patients	University of Gondar hospital	Amhara	MDRD equation	272	47	17.3%	7
Abdulkadr et al. ³¹	October– December 2017	Cross- sectional	Diabetes mellitus patients	Police hospital	Addis Ababa	Cockcroft- Gault	362	53	14.65%	7
Damtie et al. ²¹	February–April 2016	Cross- sectional	Diabetes mellitus patients	University of Gondar hospital	Amhara	MDRD equation	229	50	21.8%	7
Fiseha and Tamir ²⁸	l February–30 July 2016	Cross- sectional	Diabetes mellitus patients	Dessie Referral Hospital	Amhara	MDRD equation	323	85	26.3%	7
Fiseha et al. ³²	l September–31 October 2013	Cross- sectional	Diabetes mellitus patients	Butajira Hospital	SNNPR	Cockcroft- Gault	214	51	23.8%	7
Kahsu et al. ²⁷	l January–30 May 2012	Cross- sectional	HIV patients	Felege Hiwot Referral Hospital	Amhara	Cockcroft- Gault	307	66	21.5%	7
Kumela Goro et al. ²⁹	-	Cross- sectional	Diabetes mellitus and hypertensive patients	Jimma University Medical Center	Oromia	CKD-EPI	208	54	26.0%	7
Adugna et al. ²²	l November 2016–30 April 2017	Cross- sectional	Admitted patients	Jimma University Medical Center	Oromia	Cockcroft- Gault	355	138	38.9%	7

Table 1. General characteristic of the included articles for systematic review and meta-analysis pertaining to the magnitude and associated factors of CKD among patients with chronic illnesses in Ethiopia.

CKD: chronic kidney disease; CKD-EPI: chronic kidney disease epidemiology collaboration; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; MDRD: modification of diet in renal disease; SNNPR: Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples region.

Admitted patient prevalence of CKD indicated inpatient prevalence of CKD and hospital patient prevalence of CKD indicated out-patient prevalence of CKD.

least is from Addis Ababa (15.41% (CI: 11.83, 18.99)) (Figure 3).

Another sub-group analysis based on equations used to determine GFR showed a comparable pooled prevalence among Cockroft-Gault and MDRD methods; 22.38% (CI: 15.83, 28.92), 22.18 (CI: 18.01, 26.34), respectively (Figure 4).

Stages of CKD

Based on the results from GFR, the pooled prevalence of patients with Stage-2 CKD turns out to be the most prevalent

followed by Stage 1 accounting for 30.76% and 26.16%, respectively. The least pooled prevalence is reported from patients with Stage-5 CKD (Table 2).

Associated factors

Although individual studies depicted age,^{21,26} BMI,^{18,21,26} and the presence of hypertension as a significantly associated factor to develop CKD. Our meta-analysis found only presence of hypertension being associated significantly. According to our finding, the probability of developing CKD among hypertensive patients is three times higher when

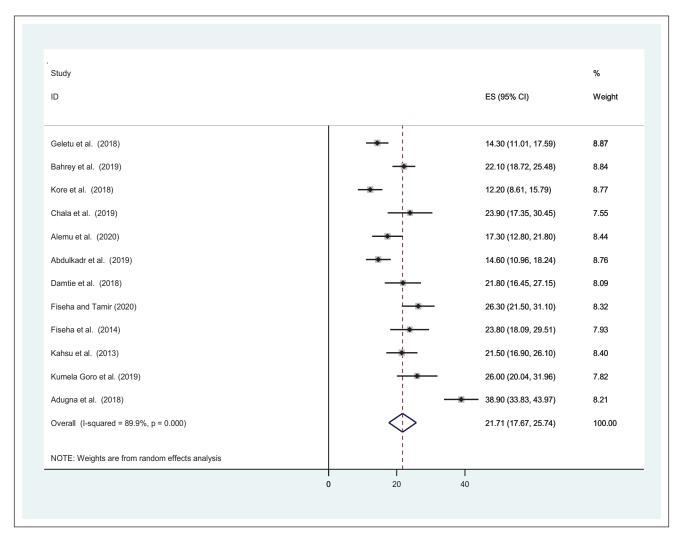


Figure 2. Forest plot depicting pooled prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic diseases in Ethiopia.

compared with normotensive patients (OR=3.01 (1.33, 6.81)) (Figure 5).

Discussion

Chronic diseases are becoming a double burden public health issue both in developed and developing countries. However, the prevalence is rising in developing countries when compared with developed nations.^{34–36} This systematic review and meta-analysis provided an update on pooled estimates of CKD in patients with chronic diseases in Ethiopia which will give invaluable information to policymakers, health planners, and the community itself.

This systematic review and meta-analysis revealed that the pooled prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic illnesses in Ethiopia was 21.71% (95% CI: 17.67–25.74) which was consistent with studies conducted in the United States on HIV patients (23.7%), Chinese HTN patients (22.0%), Thai DM patients (24.4%), Japanese type-I DM patients (19.1%), Chinese DM patients (27.1%) Ghanaian DM only, both DM and HTN and hypertensive patients (28.5%, 26.3%, and 16.1%), respectively.^{37–39} However, the finding of this meta-analysis was lower than previous studies in Brazil (38.6%), Burundi (45.7%), Japanese type-II DM patients (46%), Ghana (46.9%), and Finland (68.6%).^{40–44} On the other hand, our finding is higher than studies conducted on the general population Senegal (4.9%), China (9.88%), Asian HIV patients (13%), and Botswanan admitted patients (13.5%).^{35,45–47} The possible reason for this discrepancy might be attributed to the time of the study, the age group of the population studied, the type of chronic illnesses, the diagnosis criteria for CKD, the study setting, and the study population.

The sub-group analysis by region revealed, the highest prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic illnesses was from Oromia (32.55%) while the least is from Addis Ababa in the capital city of Ethiopia (15.41%) was observed. This can be due to significant differences in socioeconomic characteristics, lifestyles, controlling and follow-up of chronic illnesses, climatic conditions, medical care, and

Authors	Publication year		ES (95% CI)
			- (,
Addis Ababa Geletu et al.	2018		14.30 (11.01, 17.59)
Seletu et al. Kore et al.	2018		14.30 (11.01, 17.39) 12.20 (8.61, 15.79)
Chala et al.	2018		23.90 (17.35, 30.45)
Abdulkadr et al.	2019		14.60 (10.96, 18.24)
Subtotal (I-squared =		^o	15.41 (11.83, 18.99)
Subtotal (I-Squared -	00.4 /0, μ = 0.023)	V	10.41 (11.00, 10.00)
Figray			
Bahrey et al.	2019		22.10 (18.72, 25.48)
Subtotal (I-squared =	.%, p = .)	\$	22.10 (18.72, 25.48)
Amhara			
Alemu et al.	2020		17.30 (12.80, 21.80)
Damtie et al.	2018	*	21.80 (16.45, 27.15)
Fiseha and Tamir	2020		26.30 (21.50, 31.10)
Kahsu et al.	2013	+	21.50 (16.90, 26.10)
Subtotal (I-squared =	58.3%, p = 0.066)	***	21.66 (17.95, 25.38)
SNNPR			
-iseha et al.	2014	-	23.80 (18.09, 29.51)
Subtotal (I-squared =	.%, p = .)	* \$	23.80 (18.09, 29.51)
Dromia			
Kumela Goro et al.	2019	-	26.00 (20.04, 31.96)
Adugna et al.	2018	*	38.90 (33.83, 43.97)
Subtotal (I-squared =	90.4%, p = 0.001)	\sim	32.55 (19.91, 45.19)
Overall (I-squared = 8	9.9%, p = 0.000)	♦	21.71 (17.67, 25.74)
NOTE: Weights are fro	om random effects analysis		
		0 50	100

Figure 3. A forest plot showing sub-group analysis based on regions.

economic development between regions that may cause the differences in CKD prevalence among chronically ill patients.

In another sub-group analysis using the stage of CKD, the pooled prevalence of patients with Stage 2 turns out to be the most prevalent followed by Stages 1 and 3 accounting 30.76%, 26.16%, and 13.88%, respectively. The least pooled prevalence is reported for stage 5 (0.4%). The finding of this systematic review and meta-analysis was in line with studies from Ghana and Botswana.^{47,48} Similarly study among Kenyan medical inpatients reported type II (30.5%) was dominant followed by type III (28.8%).¹⁶ Whereas type III was the most prevalent stage (18.2%) and the least was Stage 5 (1.6%) in Thai type-II DM patients.¹⁷ While in the Chinese DM patients' Stage 1 was most prevalent followed by Stage 2.³⁹

This systematic review and meta-analysis also identified factors associated with CKD among chronic illness patients in Ethiopia. In random-effects model pooled estimates, hypertension was significantly associated with CKD. The pooled estimates of developing CKD among hypertensive patients are three times higher when compared with normotensive patients. This finding was similar with studies conducted in Finland, Senegal, Singapore, and China.^{35,44,49} The possible reason might be hypertension is highly related with end organ damage and may result in kidney injury.⁵⁰ But factors like duration of hypertension, current blood pressure, duration of DM, poor control of blood pressure, drug adherence to antihypertensive medication, DM, and cardiovascular disease should not be neglected.^{23,34,39,41}

Strength and limitation

This study follows some strengths and limitations. Our review adds considerable knowledge of the updated prevalence of CKD among patients with chronic illnesses in Ethiopia. Sub-group analysis was performed to minimize statistical heterogeneity. Multiple factors were also included to identify the significant factors for CKD but the lack of important risk factors in the analysis was the limitation.

Authors	Publication		ES (95% CI)		
Autions	year		L3 (95 % CI)		
Cockcroft-Gault					
Geletu et al.	2018	*	14.30 (11.01, 17.59)		
Bahrey et al.	2019	-	22.10 (18.72, 25.48)		
Abdulkadr et al.	2019	*	14.60 (10.96, 18.24)		
Fiseha et al.	2014	-	23.80 (18.09, 29.51)		
Kahsu et al.	2013	*	21.50 (16.90, 26.10)		
Adugna et al.	2018	*	38.90 (33.83, 43.97)		
Subtotal (I-square	ed = 93.5%, p = 0.000)	\diamond	22.38 (15.83, 28.92)		
CKD-EPI					
Kore et al.	2018	*	12.20 (8.61, 15.79)		
Kumela Goro et a	I. 2019		26.00 (20.04, 31.96)		
Subtotal (I-square	ed = 93.4%, p = 0.000)		18.89 (5.37, 32.40)		
MDRD equation					
Chala et al.	2019	-	23.90 (17.35, 30.45)		
Alemu et al.	2020	*	17.30 (12.80, 21.80)		
Damtie et al.	2018	*	21.80 (16.45, 27.15)		
Fiseha and Tamir	2020		26.30 (21.50, 31.10)		
Subtotal (I-square	ed = 60.6%, p = 0.055)	\$	22.18 (18.01, 26.34)		
Overall (I-squared	d = 89.9%, p = 0.000)	\$	21.71 (17.67, 25.74)		
NOTE: Weights a	re from random effects analysis	6			

Figure 4. Forest plot depicting a sub-group analysis based on equations used to determine GFR.

Stages of CKD based on GFR		GFR cut point (mL/min/1.73 m²)	Description	No. of studies	Pooled prevalence (95% CI)	l ²	P values
Stage I		≥90	Normal or high	6	26.16% (12.16, 40.16)	98.4%	<0.001
Stage 2		60–89	Mild	6	30.76% (13.42, 48.10)	98.8%	< 0.00 I
Stage 3	A	45–59	Mild to moderate	7	9.94% (5.97, 13.91)	89.4%	<0.001
	В	3044	Moderate to severe	7	3.77% (2.11, 5.42)	73.9%	<0.001
	Total			10	13.88% (9.92, 17.85)	91%	< 0.00 I
Stage 4		15–29	Severe	9	1.19% (0.76, 1.61)	90%	< 0.00 I
Stage 5		<15	Kidney failure	5	0.4% (0.05, 0.74)	88%	< 0.00 I

 Table 2. Pooled prevalence of CKD stages among patients with chronic diseases in Ethiopia.

CKD: chronic kidney disease; CI: confidence interval; GFR: glomerular filtration rate.

Stage-5 CKD patients included predialysis patients and excluded patients with renal transplantation.

However, substantial statistically significant heterogeneity was observed across studies which undermines the pooled estimate of CKD suggests that chance could be responsible for between-study variability. Sub-group analysis could not identify the source of heterogeneity. The limitations were the included Studies used different criteria to assess CKD, and all the included studies were cross-sectional which undermines the assessment of risk factors.

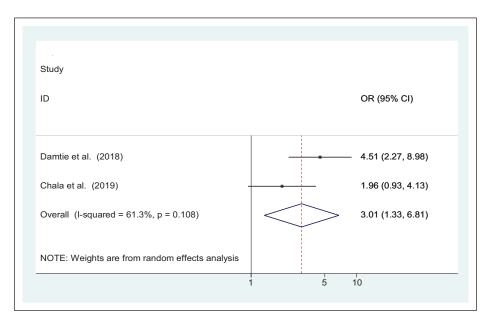


Figure 5. Forest plot indicating association of hypertension with CKD among patients with chronic illnesses in Ethiopia.

Conclusion

In this systematic review, the pooled prevalence of CKD among chronic illness patients was significantly high. Hypertension was significantly associated with CKD. Based on the finding of this review, we recommend that continuous screening of renal function, identification of the possible risk factors, and proper follow-up and management strategy should be designed to halt CKD among patients with chronic illnesses.

Declaration of conflicting interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

ORCID iDs

Zelalem Animaw D https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9270-5558 Gashaw Walle Ayehu D https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7333-152X

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