Research Article

Prevalence and Predictors of Nonadherence to Diet and Physical Activity Recommendations among Type 2 Diabetes Patients in Southwest Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Background. Nonadherence to lifestyle modification recommendations is a major challenge in the management of diabetes mellitus. This study was conducted to measure the prevalence and predictors of nonadherence to diet and physical activity recommendations among type 2 diabetes patients (T2D).

Methods. A cross-sectional study involving 322 type 2 diabetes patients was conducted from April 1 to June 30, 2019. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews using structured and pretested questionnaire. Data on sociodemographic, psychosocial, and clinical characteristics were collected. Descriptive analytical results were reported in text, tables, and figures. Logistic regression was conducted to identify predictors of nonadherence to diet and physical activity. Variables with p value ≤0.25 in bivariate logistic regression were considered as candidates for multivariable regression. Multivariate logistic regression was performed to identify independent predictors. Odds ratios and their 95% confidence intervals together with p value <0.05 were used to declare statistical significance.

Result. The rate of nonadherence to physical activity and diet was 64.3% and 36%, respectively. Female gender (AOR: 2.6, 95% CI [1.52–4.56]), age > 60 years (AOR: 2.9, 95% CI [1.12–7.42]), being illiterate (AOR: 4.2, 95% CI [1.86–9.73]), diabetes duration of > 5 years (AOR: 2.5, 95% CI [1.42–4.41]), and lack of social support (AOR: 2.4, 95% CI [1.42–4.35]) were independent predictors of nonadherence to physical activity recommendations. Factors associated with nonadherence to dietary recommendations were being male (AOR = 2.8, 95% CI: [1.35–5.65]), age > 60 years (AOR = 6.3, 95% CI: [2.21–18.17]), khat chewing (AOR = 8.0, 95% CI: [3.86–16.7]), lack of social support (AOR = 15.26, 95% CI: [7.45–32.8]), and doctor’s instructions or advice regarding diet (AOR = 8.9, 95% CI: [4.26–18.9]).

Conclusion. The rate of nonadherence to diet and physical activity recommendations was high in the study area. Predictors of nonadherence to physical activity are female gender, age > 60 years, being illiterate, diabetes duration of > 5 years, and lack of social support. Predictors of nonadherence to diet are being male, khat chewing, lack of social support, and doctor’s instructions or advice regarding diet.

1. Background

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a group of metabolic disorders characterized by hyperglycemia in the context of relative insulin deficiency and insulin resistance. DM could be either type I (T1D) or type II DM (T2D). Type 2 diabetes (T2D) accounts for more than 90% of the cases [1]. The number of people living with T2D has increased dramatically since the last three decades due to population growth, urbanization, increasing prevalence of obesity, and physical inactivity [2]. It was estimated that 425 million adults were living with diabetes in 2017, which is expected to rise to 629 million by 2045 [3].

Healthy lifestyle modifications such as balanced diet and physical activities are important measures in achieving optimal blood glucose control and preventing or delaying diabetes-related complications [4]. Healthy dietary habits, such as eating foods high in fibers and whole grain but low in fats, sugars, and carbohydrates, would help in decreasing the level of blood glucose and subsequently reduce the amount
of insulin needed [5]. Physical activities also have a beneficial effect on glycemic control by increasing tissue sensitivity to insulin [6]. Studies showed that T2D patients who were adherent to diet and physical activity recommendations had a 40% to 60% reduction in the rate of diabetes-related complications [7, 8]. Despite the afore-mentioned benefits, the rate of nonadherence to diet and exercise recommendations ranges from 35 to 75% and 70 to 81%, respectively, among T2D patients [9–14].

Ethiopia is one of the low-income countries affected by the trend of sharp increase in the number of population with DM, where the prevalence of diabetes was reported to be 5.2% [3]. Experiences showed that most of our patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus presented with poor glycemic control which might be attributed to nonadherence to lifestyle modification recommendations. The status of nonadherence to lifestyle (diet and physical activity) recommendations and their predictors among T2D patients are not well studied in Ethiopia. Consequently, this study was designed to determine the prevalence and predictors of nonadherence to diet and physical activity recommendations among T2D patients in southwest Ethiopia.

2. Methods

2.1. Study Design and Population. A health facility-based cross-sectional study was conducted among 322 T2D patients in Jimma Medical Center (JMC) from April 1 to June 30, 2019. JMC is located in Jimma town, 355 km from the capital city Addis Ababa in the southwest, Jimma zone, Oromia regional state, Ethiopia. It is one of the oldest public hospitals in the southwest part of this country and operates under the administration of Jimma University. It is currently the only teaching and specialized hospital in the southwest region of Ethiopia. The hospital serves as a referral site and provides specialized care for southwest Ethiopia with a catchment population of 15 million.

The study population was T2D patients who attended diabetic clinic of JMC. Individuals aged ≥18 years and previously diagnosed with T2D for at least 3 months were included. Patients with the diagnosis of type 1 or gestational diabetes, acute illness, and mental impairment were excluded from study.

2.2. Sample Size Determination and Sampling Technique. The minimum sample size was calculated using the formula 
\[ n = \frac{Z^2pq}{d^2} \] (where \( n \) is the required sample size; \( p \) is the expected prevalence of nonadherence to diet and physical activity, 50% (since there is no study in this area); i.e., \( q = 1 - p \); and \( d \) is error (precision), i.e., 5%). Thus, \((1.96)^2 \times (0.5) \times (0.5)/0.05^2 = 384 \) patients. Since the target population is less than 10,000, we used the correction formula
\[ nf = \frac{No/1 + No/N}{1} \] where \( nf \) is the corrected sample size and \( N \) is an estimate of population size, which was 1606. The corrected sample size was \( nf = 384/1 + 384/1606 = 308 \). By adding 5% contingency, the final sample size was 322 patients. A simple random sampling technique was used to select patients using a computer generated random number.

2.3. Study Instruments and Validation. The data collection tool was developed based on previous similar studies [15–19] and patient follow-up data. It was originally prepared in English, then translated into local languages (Afaan Oromo and Amharic), and back translated into English by independent language experts to ensure the translated version gives the proper meaning.

The questionnaire consisted of three sections: section one contained sociodemographic and behavioural characteristics; section two assessed the psychosocial and clinical characteristics; and section three included questions regarding the lifestyle modification recommendations.

For section one, the collected sociodemographic and behavioural data were age, sex, marital status, area of residence, occupation, level of education, monthly income, smoking status, and khat chewing.

Section two consisted of 3 questions regarding psychosocial and clinical characteristics, namely, family support, doctor’s instructions regarding diet and exercise, and duration of diabetes.

Section three contained questions about the recommended lifestyle modifications for diabetes patients such as nonadherence to dietary recommendations, physical activity recommendations, and reasons behind nonadherence.

The questionnaire was evaluated for face validity by the team of endocrinologists and public health specialists. After considering comments of the team, a pilot study was conducted on 32 patients (10% of the sample size), based on which the final revision to the questionnaire was made for clarity and understandability.

2.4. Data Collection and Measurements. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews using structured and pre-tested questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered by 4 trained nurses and 2 supervisors. Each participant took 10–15 minutes to finish the interview. Individual interviews were conducted during the patient waiting time. Informed consent was obtained from each participant after the objectives of the study had been explained. Anonymity and confidentiality of data were assured.

In this study, the dependent variables were adherence to diet and adherence to physical activity recommendations. Healthy dietary recommendations are comprised of fruits and vegetables and foods high in fiber and whole grain but low carbohydrates (nonstarchy), fats (milk and dairy products), and sugars. Participants were considered nonadherent to dietary recommendations if they had self-reported adherence of less than three days a week (healthy diet for at least four days in the week was considered good adherence).

Physical activity recommendation includes 150 minutes or more of moderate-to-vigorous intensity aerobic activity per week or at least 30 min/day [20]. Participants were regarded as nonadherent to physical activity recommendation if he/she exercises less than 150 minutes per week.

The prevalence of nonadherence to diet and physical activity (dichotomized, yes/no) was calculated as a proportion of patients who did not adhere to the above diet and
physical activity recommendations. The reasons behind the non-adherence were measured.

2.5. Data Quality Assurance. The quality of data was assured by properly designing the tool, the questionnaire was pre-tested in JMC using 16 patients, and important modifications were made prior to the actual data collection. A 2-day training was provided to the data collectors and supervisors on the data collection tool, how to ask questions, and the way of approaching respondents. The collected data were checked carefully on a daily basis for completeness, accuracy, and clarity by a supervisor, and the principal investigators monitored the overall activities of data collection.

2.6. Ethical Consideration. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Jimma University. The principal investigator or data collectors briefed the aim of the study to the patients, and signed informed consent was taken from all participants prior to data collection. During data collection, confidentiality was ensured and, for this reason, name and address of the patient were not recorded in the data collection checklist.

2.7. Statistical Analysis. Data were entered into EpiData 3.2 and exported to statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 software for cleaning and analysis. Descriptive analysis was performed and the results were presented by text, tables, and figures. Chi-square test was performed to check the adequacy of cells before performing logistic regression. Bivariate and multivariate logistic regressions were carried out to assess independent predictors of non-adherence to diet and physical activity. Bivariate logistic regression was performed to identify candidate variables for multivariable logistic regression. Variables with p value ≤0.25 in bivariate regression were considered as candidates for multivariate regression. Multivariate logistic regression was performed using backward method to identify independent predictors. Odds ratios and their 95% confidence intervals together with p value ≤0.05 were used to identify independent predictors of non-adherence to diet and physical activity. Goodness of fitness of the final model was checked using Hosmer and Lemeshow statistic.

3. Result

3.1. Sociodemographic, Psychosocial, and Clinical Characteristics of the Study Participants. A total of 322 (50.9% males) type 2 diabetes patients were enrolled in the study. The mean (±SD) age of the study participants was 44.2 (±1.3) where 51.2% were aged below 40 years. The sociodemographic, psychosocial, and clinical characteristics of the study population are depicted in Table 1.

3.2. Prevalence of Nonadherence to the Recommended Lifestyle Modifications. In this study, the prevalence of non-adherence to physical activity was 207 (64.3%) and non-adherence to diet was 116 (36%). The most common physical exercise performed by the participants was walking, 111 (96.97%), and more than half, 67 (58.26%), of them perform physical exercise twice a week (Table 2).

The most common healthy diet habit indicated by the participants was “Eating fruits and vegetables”, 162 (78.6%). About 95 (46.1%) of the patients followed healthy diet at least thrice a week (Table 3).

3.3. Reasons behind Nonadherence to the Recommended Lifestyle Modifications

3.3.1. Reasons behind Nonadherence to Physical Activity. Lack of time (56.04%) was the commonest reason for non-adherence to physical activity recommendations (Figure 1).

3.3.2. Reasons behind Nonadherence to Dietary Recommendations. The commonest reason behind non-adherence to dietary recommendations was a belief that “Healthy diets are so expensive”, 113 (97.23%) (Figure 2).

3.4. Predictors of Nonadherence to the Recommended Lifestyle Modifications

3.4.1. Predictors of Nonadherence to Physical Activity Recommendations. Binary logistic regression was done to identify the association between baseline sociodemographic, psychosocial, and clinical characteristics and non-adherence to physical activity recommendation. Accordingly, sex, age, residence, educational status, monthly income, smoking status, family support, and duration of the diabetes had a p value of <0.25.

Further multivariate logistic regression was conducted to identify independent predictors of non-adherence to physical activity. After adjusting for all variables in multivariate analysis, female gender (AOR: 2.6, 95% CI [1.52–4.56]), age >60 years (AOR: 2.9, 95% CI [1.12–7.42]), being illiterate (AOR: 4.2, 95% CI [1.86–9.73]), diabetes duration of >5 years (AOR: 2.5, 95% CI [1.42–4.41]), and lack of social support (AOR: 2.4, 95% CI [1.42–4.35]) were found to be independent predictors of non-adherence to physical activity recommendations (Table 4).

3.4.2. Predictors of Nonadherence to Dietary Recommendations. On a multivariate model (Table 5), independent predictors of non-adherence to dietary recommendations were male gender (AOR = 2.8, 95% CI: [1.35–5.65]), age >60 years (AOR = 6.3, 95% CI: [2.21–18.17]), khat chewing (AOR = 8.0, 95% CI: [3.86–16.7]), lack of social support (AOR = 15.26, 95% CI: [7.45–32.8]), and doctor’s instructions or advice regarding diet (AOR = 8.9, 95% CI: [4.26–18.9]) (Table 5).

4. Discussion

This study showed that the prevalence of non-adherence to diet and physical activity recommendations was high. The commonest reason for non-adherence to physical activity was...
Table 1: Sociodemographic, behavioural, psychosocial, and clinical characteristics of the study participants (n = 322).

| Variables                        | Frequency (%) |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Sex                              |               |
| Male                             | 164 (50.9)    |
| Female                           | 158 (49.1)    |
| Age                              |               |
| <40                              | 165 (51.2)    |
| 40–60                            | 109 (33.9)    |
| >60                              | 48 (14.9)     |
| Mean ± SD                        | 44.2 ± 1.3    |
| Marital status                   |               |
| Single                           | 69 (21.4)     |
| Married                          | 181 (56.2)    |
| Widowed                          | 49 (15.2)     |
| Divorced                         | 23 (7.1)      |
| Residence                        |               |
| Urban                            | 178 (55.3)    |
| Rural                            | 144 (44.7)    |
| Education level                  |               |
| Illiterate                       | 74 (23)       |
| Primary                          | 112 (34.8)    |
| Secondary                        | 81 (25.2)     |
| Tertiary                         | 55 (17)       |
| Monthly income                   |               |
| ≤2500 ETB (86.2 USD)             | 130 (40.4)    |
| >2500 ETB (86.2 USD)             | 192 (59.6)    |
| Occupational status              |               |
| Unemployed                       | 22 (6.8)      |
| Employed                         | 250 (77.6)    |
| Pensioner                        | 25 (7.8)      |
| Housewife                        | 25 (7.8)      |
| Smoking habit                    |               |
| Smoker                           | 45 (14.0)     |
| Non/ex-smokers                   | 277 (86.0)    |
| Khat chewing                     |               |
| Yes                              | 150 (46.6)    |
| No                               | 172 (53.4)    |
| Family support                   |               |
| Yes                              | 160 (49.4)    |
| No                               | 162 (50.6)    |
| Doctor’s instructions regarding diet and exercise |          |
| Yes                              | 188 (58.4)    |
| No                               | 134 (41.6)    |
| Duration of diabetes             |               |
| ≤5                               | 205 (63.7)    |
| >5                               | 117 (36.3)    |

ETB: Ethiopian Birr, USD: United States Dollar.

Table 2: Characteristics of the physical exercise adherent group at JMC (n = 115).

| Variable                        | Frequency (%) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Exercise preference             |               |
| Walking                         | 111 (96.97)   |
| Jogging                         | 11 (9.55)     |
| Heavy weight lifting            | 7 (6.3)       |
| Other*                          | 17 (14.9)     |
| Frequency of exercise           |               |
| Once daily                      | 23 (20)       |
| Twice weekly                    | 67 (58.26)    |
| At least three times a week     | 25 (21.74)    |

*Household chores, farming, and cattle herding.

Table 3: Characteristics of the diet adherent group at JMC (n = 206).

| Variable                        | Frequency (%) |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Diet preference                 |               |
| High starch and fiber diet      | 117 (56.8%)   |
| Low saturated fat and caloric intake | 46 (22.3%) |
| Fruits and vegetables           | 162 (78.6%)   |
| Regular alcohol intake and smoking cessation | 21 (10.2%) |
| Eating less sugar, carbohydrate, and fat meals | 141 (68.4%) |
| Frequency of diet adherence     |               |
| Once daily                      | 67 (32.5%)    |
| Once weekly                     | 44 (21.4%)    |
| At least three times a week     | 95 (46.1%)    |
5

Table 4: Crudes and adjusted odds ratio (OR) for predictors of nonadherence to physical activity recommendation in JMC (n = 322).

| Variables                  | Adherence to Physical activity |  *COR [95% CI] | p value |  *AOR [95% CI] | p value |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
|                           | Adherent | Nonadherent |              |             |             |         |
| Sex                       | Female | 41 | 117 | 2.3 [1.47, 3.76] | < 0.001 | 2.6 [1.52, 4.56] | 0.001* |
|                           | Male | 74 | 90 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Age                       | <40 | 54 | 111 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|                           | 40–60 | 54 | 55 | 0.49 [0.30, 0.81] | 0.006 | 0.7 [0.38, 1.18] | 0.16 |
|                           | >60 | 7 | 41 | 2.85 [1.20, 6.76] | 0.018 | 2.9 [1.12, 7.42] | 0.028* |
| Residence                 | Urban | 52 | 126 | 1.9 [1.18, 2.98] | 0.007 | 1.2 [0.71, 1.97] | 0.51 |
|                           | Rural | 63 | 81 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Education status          | Illiteracy | 18 | 56 | 4.1 [1.89, 8.52] | < 0.001 | 4.2 [1.86, 9.73] | 0.001* |
|                           | Primary | 32 | 80 | 3.2 [1.65, 6.32] | 0.001 | 2.1 [0.98, 4.46] | 0.056 |
|                           | Secondary | 34 | 47 | 1.7 [0.89, 3.57] | 0.101 | 1.6 [0.76, 3.51] | 0.21 |
|                           | Tertiary | 31 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Monthly income (ETB)      | ≤2500 (86.2 USD) | 32 | 98 | 2.3 [1.43, 3.81] | 0.001 | 0.6 [0.35, 1.08] | 0.09 |
|                           | >2500 (86.2 USD) | 83 | 109 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Smoking                   | Smoker | 21 | 94 | 1.7 [0.90, 3.21] | 0.1 | 0.9 [0.41, 2.26] | 0.92 |
|                           | Nonsmoker | 24 | 183 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Social support            | Yes | 71 | 44 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|                           | No | 89 | 118 | 2.14 [1.34, 3.41] | 0.001 | 2.4 [1.42, 4.35] | 0.001* |
| Duration of the disease (years) | ≤5 | 88 | 117 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|                           | >5 | 27 | 90 | 2.5 [1.50, 4.18] | < 0.001 | 2.5 [1.42, 4.41] | 0.002* |

*Statistically significant at p value ≤ 0.05. AOR: adjusted odds ratio, COR: crude odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, ETB: Ethiopian Birr, USD: United States Dollar.
lack of time, while for dietary recommendations it was the belief that “Healthy diets are so expensive.” Gender, older age, level of education (illiteracy), khat chewing, diabetes duration of greater than 5 years, lack of doctor’s instructions or advice, and social support were independent predictors of non-adherence to diet and physical activity recommendations.

In the current study, more than one-third (36.0%) and almost two-thirds (64.3%) of the patients did not adhere to diet and physical activity recommendations, respectively. In this study nonadherence to physical activity was commoner than nonadherence to diet. Nonadherence to physical activity was higher in the present study than that in Nepal [46%] [21], USA [31%] [22], Calgary [52%] [14], and Hungary [33.8%] [23] but lower than the study conducted in Yemen [84.8%] [16]. The rate of nonadherence to dietary recommendations was higher in the current study than those in USA [25.2%] [22] and Ohio [33.4%] [24] but lower than the studies conducted in Kuwait (63.5%) [25], Nepal [41%] [21], and Saudi Arabia (67.9%) [26]. This deviation might be due to a difference in socioeconomic status, education, and patient care.

4.1. Predictors of Nonadherence to Physical Activity Recommendations. This study also identified predictors of nonadherence to the recommended lifestyle modifications. Accordingly, females were two times more likely to be nonadherent to physical activity recommendation than their male counterparts (AOR: 2.6, 95% CI [1.52–4.56]). A similar finding was reported in a study conducted in India where females stay at home to work most of the time. In line with other studies [28, 29], older participants (age > 60 years) were significantly associated with nonadherence to physical activity recommendation (AOR: 2.9, 95% CI [1.12–7.42]). With increasing age, there will be a decline in motor activity and the risk of comorbid disease would increase, making routine physical activity difficult. Educational level was also another predictor of nonadherence to physical activity recommendation. Nonadherence level was significantly higher in illiterates than those who attended higher education (AOR: 4.2, 95% CI [1.86–9.73]). This result is in agreement with the study conducted in Addis Ababa [30]. This could be due to low diabetes self-management behaviors and low diabetes knowledge of illiterates. The duration of diabetes was one of the predictors for nonadherence to physical activity recommendations. Participants with diabetes duration of greater than 5 years were two times more likely not to engage in physical activity than those with less than 5 years (AOR: 2.5, 95% CI [1.42–4.41]). This is consistent with the study conducted by Jadawala et al. [27], where patients with shorter duration of diabetes were more adherent to exercise. This might be explained by the fact that with an increase in the duration of disease, patients might be fed up with engaging in routine physical activity. Moreover, lack of social support was significantly associated with nonadherence to physical activity (AOR: 2.4, 95% CI [1.42–4.35], similar to the finding in Bahir Dar [31]. Social support promotes adherence by providing motivation for exercise and practical help in everyday activities.

4.2. Predictors of Nonadherence to Dietary Recommendations. The multivariate analysis of this study indicated that male respondents were more likely to be nonadherent to dietary recommendations (AOR = 2.8, 95% CI: [1.35–5.65]). This is in line with a Nigerian study [32] but in contradiction to a Nepalese study [33] which showed females to be more nonadherent than males. Khat chewers were also more likely

**Table 5:** Crudes and adjusted odds ratio (OR) for predictors of nonadherence to dietary recommendations in JMC (n = 322).

| Variables                          | Adherence to diet | COR [95% CI] | p value | AOR [95% CI] | p value |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|
|                                    | Adherent          | Nonadherent  |         |              |         |
| Sex                                |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | Female            | 119          | 1       | 2.7 [1.68, 4.34] | <0.001 |
|                                    | Male              | 87           | 39      | 1            |         |
| Age category (years)               |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | <40               | 54           | 111     | 1            | 1       |
|                                    | 40–60             | 54           | 55      | 1.9 [1.14, 3.08] | 0.013 |
|                                    | >60               | 7            | 41      | 0.5 [0.25, 1.17] | 0.11   |
| Residence                          |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | Urban             | 52           | 126     | 1.1 [0.71, 1.77] | 0.61   |
|                                    | Rural             | 63           | 81      | 1            | 1       |
| Monthly income (ETB)               |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | ≤2500 (86.2 USD)  | 82           | 48      | 1            | 1       |
|                                    | >2500 (86.2 USD)  | 103          | 89      | 1.8 [1.14, 2.92] | 0.012 |
| Khat chewing                       |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | Yes               | 74           | 76      | 3.4 [2.10, 5.46] | <0.001 |
|                                    | No                | 132          | 40      | 1            | 1       |
| Social support                     |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | Yes               | 136          | 24      | 1            | 1       |
|                                    | No                | 70           | 92      | 7.4 [4.36, 12.7] | <0.001 |
| Duration of the disease (years)    |                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | ≤5                | 125          | 80      | 1.4 [0.88, 2.33] | 0.13   |
|                                    | >5                | 81           | 36      | 1            | 1       |
| Doctor’s instruction regarding diet|                   |              |         |              |         |
|                                    | Yes               | 141          | 47      | 1            | 1       |
|                                    | No                | 65           | 69      | 3.1 [1.98, 5.11] | <0.001 |

*Statistically significant at p value ≤ 0.05. AOR: adjusted odds ratio, COR: crude odds ratio, CI: confidence interval, ETB: Ethiopian Birr, USD: United States Dollar.
to be nonadherent (AOR = 8.0, 95% CI: [3.86–16.7]). This could be explained by the reason that chewing khat is associated with loss of appetite [34] and the economic burden of buying khat may not allow them to afford healthy diets. The negative effect of khat chewing on adherence was shown by other studies [35, 36]. Social support was also significantly associated with adherence to dietary recommendations (AOR: 2.4, 95% CI [1.42–4.35]). Similar results were reported from Addis Ababa [37] and Nepal [21] which showed positive association between social support and adherence to lifestyle recommendations. Social support increases adherence by facilitating self-care activities such as buying groceries and providing motivation to cope with dietary recommendations. Moreover, nonadherence to dietary recommendations was observed significantly in those patients who had not received doctor’s instruction or advice regarding diet compared with those who had exposure to dietary instructions (AOR = 8.9, 95% CI; [4.26–18.9]). Similar result was shown in a study conducted in the northeast part of Ethiopia [38].

5. Conclusion

The vast majority of type 2 diabetes patients in Jimma Medical Center were nonadherent to diet and physical activity recommendations. All stakeholders who are involved in the management of diabetes should be aware of the alarmingly high rate of nonadherence to lifestyle modifications in Jimma Medical Center. Comprehensive education about diabetes self-management, particularly on diet and physical activity recommendations, should be tailored to individual patients with particular focus on gender, older age (>60 years), illiterates, khat chewers, longer diabetes duration, doctor’s instructions or advice, and social support.

5.1. Limitations of the Study. Our study is not free of limitation. This study included participants from only one institution and, hence, it might not infer for other diabetic patients. Self-reported dietary history and physical activity may be subjected to recall bias which might underestimate the patients’ nonadherence status. Further biases such as selection and social desirability bias may also play a role. Moreover, the nature of the cross-sectional study design does not indicate a temporal relationship or causality.

Abbreviations

AOR: Adjusted odds ratio
COR: Crude odds ratio
CI: Confidence interval
JMC: Jimma Medical Center
T2D: Type 2 diabetes.

Data Availability

The datasets and materials used in our study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Ethical Approval

The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Institute of Health Sciences, Jimma University.

Consent

Signed informed consent was taken from all participants prior to data collection. Anonymity and confidentiality of data were assured.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors of this paper have no competing interests.

Authors’ Contributions

GZ has conceived the study, collected and analyzed the data, and drafted the manuscript. DW has conceived the study, analyzed the data, and reviewed the manuscript. Both authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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