Dear Dr. Jin-Lei Wang,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for your careful and thorough reading of this manuscript and for the thoughtful comments and constructive suggestions, which definitely could help improve the quality of this manuscript. We can’t agree anymore with the reviewer that this study has some limitations. However, we hope that the reviewers agree that to dissect the possible causes and mechanisms of death at different altitude could be a lifelong project and is beyond the scope of the present study. We understand that there are varied mechanisms to be investigated. We hope that publishing the present work would help us secure fund in order to continue our investigations further. In the present work, our preliminary aim was to evaluate the incidence and the main underlying causes of sudden death at Asir Central Hospital, 2255 meters above sea level, in the Southern region of Saudi Arabia over a period of four years from 2013 to 2016. Our hope is that more fund will definitely help collect real data about the causes of death from other hospitals in Saudi Arabia at the sea level. Such data from various altitude would help us conduct wide scale comparisons between different altitudes as well as sea level as this will definitely help address the impact of high altitude on various diseases incidence and mortality.

Following, we offer point-by-point replies to the issues and points the reviewers addressed regarding the original manuscript.

Reviewer #

It is well written research paper about sudden causes of death the Title represents the paper well abstract is concise and well written introduction is accepted but long patients and methods accepted results presented adequately but table 2 and 3 can be organized in descending order and also can be presented by graphs discussion is fruitful yet too too long please shorten references accepted they did not mention study limitations.

We are really grateful to the reviewer for his/her valuable comments and suggestions. We understand that the materials and methods sections is a bit long and we have shortened it. However, we hope that the reviewer agrees with us that detailed Patients and Methods help other researchers in the field conduct similar research ideas and thus helping better comparison.
between the various causes of death at different altitude across the globe. Moreover, Table 2 and 3 has been reorganized in a descending order as the reviewer recommended, however we hope that the reviewer agrees with us that these two tables now present data nicely in a clear descending order and thus no need for adding more graphs representing the same data that are displayed clearly in the tables as this will make the manuscript ab bit lengthy and it is better keep it concise the reviewer recommended. Moreover, the discussion and references needs to be detailed a little bit as our aim is comparing out data with that of other researchers in the field and I’m sure the reviewer agrees with us that in this help us and other researcher comparing their data regarding the various causes of death from different altitude as well as data at the sea level. Furthermore, we can’t agree any more with the reviewer that one of the limitation of this work is that couldn’t collect data about the causes of death at the sea level in Saudi Arabia which could have make this study stronger and this why we tried to cite some more references in the discussion to make it as fruitful as much as we could. At the end, we are really grateful to the reviewer for the valuable input and we hope we satisfied him/her.

Reviewer ##

Kindly explain the motive of your study on topic at the conclusion and introduction

We are really grateful to the reviewer for his/her valuable comments and suggestions. This study aimed at evaluating the incidence and the main underlying causes of sudden death at Asir Central Hospital, 2255 meters above sea level, in the Southern region of Saudi Arabia over a period of four years from 2013 to 2016. And yes we added it in the conclusion. We thank the reviewer again for valuable input to the manuscript.

We hope that we have addressed all the editor’s and reviewers’ comments to the point to their satisfaction. In case they any further queries we are more than happy to work on it. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Ahmed Alemam, MD/PhD