Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of high parity on occurrence of anemia in pregnancy: a cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 5 June 2010

Reviewer: Ali Delpisheh

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Effect of high parity on occurrence of anemia in pregnancy: a cohort study

This is a well-written report on maternal health from Oman. Anemia in pregnancy is an important issue and a big health concern in developing countries in particular.

There are some major and minor methodological limitations and weaknesses regarding this paper.

1. Major limitations and weaknesses:

1. 1: Selection bias: The authors have mentioned that the study was nested on an ongoing randomized community trial on Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 in Oman which primarily aimed to estimate the prevalence of pre-diabetes among an Omani population and apply appropriate interventions to prevent the occurrence of diabetes. Therefore only women who have participated in AMAL study have been recruited with no randomization.

1. 2: Inclusion and exclusion criteria: Due to above limitation, the authors probably were not able to set an inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study. It has to be explained clearly why those women with past history of AIP and past history of hematological disorders have been included. What were the eligibility criteria for women attended into the study?

2. Minor limitations and weaknesses:

2. 1: The paper need to be revised in terms of some grammatical and typographical errors.

2.2: The WHO publications, but not research articles should be referenced and addressed to define HP and LP and for Hb cutoff points.

The WHO defines HP as five or more pregnancies of #20 weeks of gestation, and “low parity, LP” as less than 5 pregnancies of #20 weeks of gestation [13].

2.3 The high rate of AIP of 19.6% amongst primipara women has not reasonably been justified. This might be due to passive smoking exposure or adolescent pregnancy. The following reference is recommended for further information:

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.