Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence, Symptoms and Management of Uterine Fibroids: an international internet-based survey of 21,746 women

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2012

Reviewer: James Segars

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The manuscript by Zimmerman et al. describes the self-reported survey results for 21,000 women from 8 countries regarding uterine fibroids, symptoms, and treatments for women aged 15-49 years (except 18-49 years in the US). Results are analyzed using descriptive statistics, and by presence or absence of self-reported presence of uterine fibroids. There are many interesting observations, including the roughly 2 fold increase in heavy menstrual bleeding and pain in women with self-reported presence of uterine fibroids, compared to women without. Also unique are the incidences across different countries, as well as treatment choice, by country. The manuscript is clearly written, the results believable, and the findings represent a contribution to the field of fibroid research. The authors cover the relevant elements in the discussion that puts the work in proper perspective.

Comment: This is a manuscript that is almost certain to be cited, and it represents an important body of work. Strengths include the large number of well-characterized respondents, the application of the questionnaire across 8 countries, the design (internet-based) and inclusion of data on treatment and outcomes in one data set. Obviously, the weakness is that the disease is self-reported, but that is a minor weakness and should not undermine the importance of this work.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Figure 2 lacks a label on the y-axis.
2. Tables 3, 4, and 5 include a P-value. Please consider listing the test used below each table, denoted by an asterisk, or similar for convenience of the reader.
3. In almost all instances the English grammar is excellent, but there are a few instances that could use revision. For instance, the term “data” is plural, therefore on page 4, 4th and 5th sentence should be changed to “The available data are…”, etc.

Discretionary Revisions:

Was race included on the questionnaires? If so, including the information would be of interest, given the association of race and ethnicity in the US with uterine fibroids.
Level of interest: An exceptional article

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.