Author's response to reviews

Title: Female genital mutilation and intimate partner violence in the Ivory Coast

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Reviewer's report:

Title: Female genital mutilation and intimate partner violence in the Ivory Coast
Version: 1
Date: 19 December 2013
Reviewer: Priscilla S Dlamini

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential
Check on the analysis paragraph and make sure you avoid the use of the word 'we'. Reconstruct those statements. It's known that you are the researchers, personalization waters down the scientific stand of your study. Avoid uses of "I", "We" etc.
R: Corrected

Otherwise the article is evaluated as follows
The study is very scientific, the question at hand was well answered, The methodology used were scientific. Limitations were indicated and the results were presented scientifically with the use of the STATA and conclusions were relevant.
I conclude that with the minor corrections the study is recommended for publication
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

Reviewer's report
In the background, the authors state that various short-term and long-term negative health consequences of FGM have been reported. Please add some examples of these health consequences.

R: below is added:

Some examples of these health consequences include adverse effects on women’s reproductive health (prolonged labour, obstetric lacerations, instrumental delivery, obstetric hemorrhage, and difficult delivery)[4] and negative psychological consequences (have a psychiatric diagnosis, suffer from anxiety, somatisation, phobia, and low self-esteem) [5].


Furthermore, the authors state that women with previous exposure to violence are more likely to experience violence later in life. This is very true, as shown by several studies in different health domains, but it would be good to have a short elaboration on how these are related.

R: below is added

Women with physical and sexual trauma during childhood are more likely to experience violence including IPV in later life [10]. Likewise, women who experience FGM as a form of violence in early childhood may be vulnerable to IPV [8]. Childhood abuse including FGM may interfere with normal development
of interpersonal relatedness and affect regulation leading to a “higher threshold of tolerance” for coercive or forceful sexual advances [11]

Minor issues:
On page 6, I assume that the authors mean Bolivia instead of Bolovia?
R: Corrected

Table 1 and table 2, the authors mean FGM instead of FMG?
R: Corrected

Check table 2 for Religion/Muslim/and the odds for two or three types of IPV, they seem also significant?
R: Thank you, corrected in Table and text.