Author's response to reviews

Title: Complementary and Alternative Medicine use in pregnancy: results of a multinational study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Mr. James Prozenko;

Thank you for the editorial comments that were provided on the submitted manuscript entitled “Complementary and Alternative Medicine use in pregnancy: results of a multinational study”. In response, the following changes have been made and changes noted with Track Changes in the revised manuscript:

1. The Methods section cites an unpublished article - Lupattelli A et al: Medication use in pregnancy: a multinational perspective. 2013 (submitted). Since this article is not available to the reviewers, the authors need to add substantially more detail to the current manuscript about content development for the survey, pilot testing, cross-cultural validity, etc., before the manuscript can be sent out for review.

Answer: Additional information regarding the survey development, testing and validation has been added to this version of the manuscript. Reference to the unpublished article by Lupattelli et al. has been deleted.

2. It is not even clear if the survey was only posted in English or was translated into multiple languages. If the latter how were the translation validated? If it was not translated, then this is a limitation that should be discussed.

Answer: The following paragraph has been incorporated into the manuscript: “The questionnaire was first developed in Norwegian and English. Translation into relevant languages was performed; back-translation to English was done for specific parts of the questionnaire (i.e. psychometric scales) by two independent native speakers and/or translators. A pilot phase of the study was carried out in September 2011 in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Italy (n=47). The analysis of pilot data did not elicit any major implementations to the questionnaire.”
3. The authors are also advised to add standard errors to their tables and to state whether they tested the logistic regression assumptions: homoscedasticity, linearity, normality, absence of substantial collinearity.

Answer: The statistical technique that was used to derive the determinants of herbal medicine users with respect to maternal characteristics and lifestyle factors was logistical regression. We believe that the assumptions of homoscedasticity, linearity, normality, and collinearity are related to linear regression. As such, these assumptions were not tested. The Hosmer-Lemeshow test was performed for all of the logistical regressions and a statement to this effect has been added to the text. Again, since we have preformed logistical regression and provided the CI$_{95\%}$ information, it would appear to be unnecessary to provide standard error information in this table.

The manuscript has also been formatted to conform with the journal style.

We hope that you will find the additional information sufficient for distribution of our manuscript to the reviewers.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Kennedy, ND PhD
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