Reviewer's report

Title: Herbal Medicine use in pregnancy: results of a multinational study.

Version: 3 Date: 16 October 2013

Reviewer: paula gardiner

Reviewer's report:

Excellent Background helpful to the reader

1. Please provide a definition of what you define as "Herbal Medication"
   Can use the WHO definition

2. Fine to leave the latin names in this sentence if they were there in the original papers

   The top herbals medicines used in pregnancy have been found to include ginger (Zingiber officinale), cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccus), raspberry (Rubus idaeus), echinacea (Echinacea spp.) and chamomile (Chamomilla recutita), with geographical variations [13].

Methods

1. I like the below sentence about translation - not sure why you took it out
   can you say how many, and what were the languages that the study was translated into...? spanish, german, etc???
   how did they translate the herbal names....

   The questionnaire was first developed in Norwegian and English. Translation into the 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.

2. You wrote "When several herbal medicines and reasons for use were provided, the association between the herbal medicine and its use was made according to the order of presentation"

   Not sure what this means - did you provide them a list of herbs and a list of reasons for them to chose from?
   example - chamomile, peppermint etc
   If you did provide a list - tell us what herbs you asked about

3. "The responses to the herbal medicine text field were coded according to a pre-determined classification list of herbs by the national coordinator in each participating country."
This is excellent data below I recommend that you document how you got the predetermined list

"The pre-determined list was initially compiled by the survey development team (Angela Lupattelli and Hedvig Nordeng), with the primary focus on the common name and the associated Latin name. A 7 character specific code was assigned to each botanical following the format of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code convention as a means to standardize the coding in the questionnaire database."

By citing this detail and the reference it is clear to the reader that you did not make up the classification but used a standardized format ATC. This adds credibility to your study.

4 "The pre-determined list was initially compiled by the survey development team (Angela Lupattelli and Hedvig Nordeng), with the primary focus on the common name and the associated Latin name. A 7 character specific code was assigned to each botanical following the format of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code convention as a means to standardize the coding in the questionnaire database. The following explanatory text has been added to the Methods section, page 7: "The responses to the herbal medicine text field were coded according to a pre-determined classification list of herbs by the national coordinator in each participating country."

The national coordinators in each country were responsible for coding the women’s herbal medicine responses according to a pre-determine classification list of herbal medicines. This pre-determined classification list of herbal medicines was developed by the survey development team and included the common name, Latin name and a code. The coding system that was developed followed the format of the WHO’s ATC classification system, using available codes not assigned to allopathic medications."

Not sure why this is cross out in your paper
it is excellent!!!!!!
please put this in the text of the paper

Great revision - thanks for all the time and effort

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

no conflicts to report