Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of herbal medicine during pregnancy among women with access to public healthcare in Nairobi, Kenya: A cross-sectional survey

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Reviewer: Gioacchino Calapai

Reviewer’s report:

The authors conducted a study about herbal medicine use in Nairobi women during pregnancy. Data were collected through an interviewer-administered questionnaire.

On the basis of data collection, they concluded that in Nairobi herbal medicine is used by pregnant women with access to healthcare in an urban context but without the knowledge of healthcare practitioners.

However, the study presents some problems regarding the methodology of data collection.

Major compulsory revisions

1. I suggest to delete data regarding religion. A vision of the world in Christian and non Christian people is anachronistic and not credible. It is certainly not adequate for the article because did not conduct a more deep investigation on the argument.

2. Herbal medicinal products can be differently regulated and perceived in different countries (see definitions in the article “Research and Development for Botanical Products in Medicinals and Food Supplements Market” by Miroddi et al. 2013). Consequently, definition of herbal medicine is not homogenous in different cultures and also within the single cultural group.

   Were mothers according to a common definition of herbal medicine at the beginning of the interview? In this case, what is the definition proposed by the authors?

2. Fundamental epidemiological information is lacking:

   what is the period of data collection? (weeks, months?)

3. How much is representative from the statistical point of view the number of interviews with the respect to the Nairobi’s population?

Minor essential revisions

4. On the basis of the poor number of interviews the article is only descriptive. This should more emphasized by authors.
**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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'