Author's response to reviews

Title: Termination of pregnancy in thalassemia major, hemophilia and Downas syndrome; what Iranian Physicians think?

Authors:

Mehran Karimi (karimim@sums.ac.ir)
Mohammad Mehdi Bonyadi (Bonyadim@sums.ac.ir)
Mohammadreza Galehdari (galehdari@sums.ac.ir)
Soheila Zareifar (zareifars@sums.ac.ir)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Authors wish to thank for your valuable comments of Referees on the manuscript MS: 1173004261177120. The answers are as follows:

Please find attached the revised copy of this manuscript. All the changes are highlighted in yellow color in the text.

**REFEREE 1. Elizabeth Dormandy**

1. Statistical analysis.
   There are no statistical results included in the paper. The first version of the paper indicated the use of chi square and Fisher's exact test. However these data are not included in this version. I suggest including the results of these analyses.

   *There is chi square Statistical analysis in our qualitative data & the P value less than 0.05 is considered significant.* (page 6 line 1-2)

2. Data. The results of physicians in agreement with abortion by gestation are presented for all conditions. It would be helpful to see these data by condition and consider if there are differences.

   *The results of physicians in agreement with abortion by gestation for each of all three conditions (less than 12 weeks gestation, less than 16 weeks gestation, less than 20 weeks gestation, less than 24 weeks gestation, and beyond the 24 weeks of gestational age) were evaluated & were not significant. (P> 0.05) So we mentioned the general results regarding all of three conditions.* (page 7 line 18-21)

3. Conclusion. The observed differences are attributed to overall prognosis. The data show an association between agreement with abortion and perceived seriousness of condition. As this is descriptive study it is not possible to state that the observed association is causal.

   *As respected reviewers mentioned, we corrected causal sentences and we showed only association not causal relationship.* (page 9 line 13-17)
The authors have added more detail on the sample but have not commented on how generalisable this sample is.

We did not have estimation of the physicians' opinions regarding abortion in these three diseases. Considering P=0.5, d=0.05 and confident interval=95\% (page 5 line 14), sample size calculated as 384. Physicians belonged to different wards of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. On the basis of the number of physicians in each ward, sample size allocated to each ward by stratified random sampling. (page 5 line 16-17)

As we tried to have an appropriate sample size and sampling method, we believe that our sample is representative of our physicians population in Shiraz university of Medical sciences.

5. Section on strengths and limitations.
I would like to see information on how generalisable and representative the findings are. The additional data in the Limitations section on the governments view on termination for these conditions should be included in the introduction.

We added it in the introduction part (page 4 line 2-5)

REFEREE 2 : Jenny Hewison

1. There are 323 participants. It follows that there cannot be 680 physicians agreeing with abortion for all three conditions, as reported in both the results section and the abstract. The figures relating to gestation must also be wrong.

The sentence each of all three conditions was corrected (page 7 line 11)

There can be 680 physicians agreeing with abortion for each of all three conditions as follows:

So, The figures are correct.

- Also, an expert was re-revised English language as you wish.

Sincerely yours

Mehran Karimi MD
Hematology Research Center
Nemazee Hospital
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz – Iran
Telfax: + 98 711 6470207
Email: karimim@sums.ac.ir
Karimi820@gmail.com