Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Elizabeth Dormandy

Reviewer's report:

Research question
This is an interesting paper addressing an important topic: namely the views of Iranian physicians to termination of pregnancy for a range of conditions. The authors are to be congratulated for obtaining data from a large number of physicians.

Methods
The report would be considerably strengthened by including a statistical analysis of the results. The methods indicate that chi square and Fisher’s exact test were used but the results are not included in the paper.

It would be helpful to give a response rate. While the data are included in the paper in their raw format, an overall estimate would be useful.

Data
There is a lack of clarity in how the results were analysed. Of 323 participants the majority appeared to support termination for two of the conditions. The results state that 204 physicians were opposed to abortion which appears to undermine the first statement. It may be that the authors have conflated the results for the three conditions. If so, I suggest that the results of those opposed to abortion should be given by condition.

The paper states that the majority of physicians were in favour of abortion but when this is broken down by gestation the response add up to about 16%.

Discussion and Conclusion
The reasons for the responses given were not explored in this study and therefore the conclusion that physicians support abortion for thalassaemia and Down syndrome because of the overall prognosos of the condition are not supported by the data.

In the discussion the view’s of healthcare professionals in this study are compared with other studies reporting the views of women about termination of pregnancy. I would suggest that the authors compare the view’s of healthcare professionals in this study with other studies examining the views of healthcare professionals towards termination of pregnancy for these coinditions. There are
differences between the view’s of women and healthcare professionals but the design and reporting of the current study is not sufficiently robust for this to be the main focus of the discussion.

These results are from one university in Iran. It would be helpful to consider how generalisable these results are to the rest of Iran

Limitations
A section on limitations and strengths would be helpful

Title
This adequately reflects the paper. However the conclusion of the abstract goes beyond the supporting data.

If all these points can be addressed then I would recommend publication of the paper. That is I classify all these points as major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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