Reviewer's report

Title: A cross sectional study on fertility knowledge in Japan, measured with the Japanese version of Cardiff Fertility Knowledge Scale (CFKS-J)

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Reviewer: Brennan Peterson

Reviewer's report:

This study examines the fertility knowledge of men and women in Japan - a country with a decidedly low fertility rate. The authors build a strong case for the significance of this research and the potential it can have for Japanese men and women who seek to make more informed reproductive choices as opposed to being led by misinformed assumptions.

Minor Essential Revisions and General Comments

Abstract - Line 58 - learnt should be changed to learned.

Introduction - The authors build a strong case for the importance of this research in Japan using appropriate literature specific to the population. The section is well written and clear.

Methods - The age ranges for inclusion are on the high end with the "General" group being 59 and the "Triers" group being 50. These upper end age ranges sample many people beyond their childbearing years. In the United States, the age range of 15-44 is considered to sample women during their fertile years. The authors may want to consider reducing the age ranges on the upper end if indeed they want to measure fertility knowledge in people who are still fertile.

The use of a validated measure for fertility knowledge adds strength to the study.

The inclusion of income data on the sociodemographic variables is a valuable contribution to this study as knowledge and perception of fertility is highly variable by income and SES.

The results are clearly presented and the use of comparisons between the two groups are appropriate.

The discussion is presented clearly and past studies and recent governmental efforts are summarized to illustrate possible trends and explanations.

The authors make good arguments about the inclusion of older members of their sample. The inclusion of these arguments may be strong enough to keep the age ranges where they began.

The limitations are noted on lines 372-383 which is an essential element of the study.
Overall the study is well written, designed, and presented. It has the potential to add to the knowledge base of fertility awareness - particularly in Japan and Asian countries.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No, I have no competing interests in this paper.