Reviewer's report

Title: Psychosocial implications of tubal ligation in a rural health district: A phenomenological study

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Reviewer: Mari-a Yolanda Makuch

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Major Revision:

The manuscript presents a very interesting study, conducted in a setting were there is no information on the psicosocial implications of tubal ligation. The qualitative approach chosen is adequate for this kind of studies, since it gives researchers the possibility to gather in-depth information. However a major revision, mainly of the Result section is necessary.

Background

Presents a brief description of the use of tubal ligation in the region and continues presenting the specific situation of Congo. At the end of this section when authors affirm that several studies have reported “ … menstrual, somatic affective, relational or psychological problems following sterilization in women”. References on these studies should be included. Afterwards, in the same paragraph authors state “ … a high proportion of previous studies used quantitative design and could not deepen … “ References should also be included. The last paragraph should include a clear formulation of the objective of the study.

Method

This section does not need so many explanations to justify the method chosen, so the first part of this section could be summarized.

What is the objective of paragraph #6 of this section? It should be more elaborated if authors feel it is important or removed

Results

When describing socio-demographic data percentage should not be used since it is a qualitative study, Percentage should be replaced by comments used in qualitative research, such as almost all women, slightly over a half of the participants ...

The categories used in the analysis need to be more clear in presenting the important information, the information that really stands out of the accounts given by women. And this should be summarized and presented with some contextualization of who were the women who had the different psychosocial experiences with tubal ligation. Did all the women have sufficient information on the procedure? Did they make the decision or was there pressure to decide?
From the family? From the husband? How many children did they have? What was the decision making process? It would be interesting to look over the analysis contextualizing what women said with who were the women who said it. In summary this section needs more work, and a more consistent conceptualization of the accounts given by women.

Discussion

Some parts of this section are results and could be included in that section, in fact would collaborate to make that section more consistent.

This section needs a to include some discussion with the scientific literature on psychosocial implications of tubal ligation.

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.