Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of first and second trimester induced abortion in Ethiopia - results from a study taken place after a recent abortion law reform

Version: 4 Date: 8 July 2014

Reviewer: Marie Klingberg-Allvin

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Review report for BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
Manuscript id: 4340889191288558
Title: Determinants of first and second trimester induced abortion in Ethiopia - results from a study taken place after a recent abortion law reform

Overall comments: This study has aimed to describe determinants of first and second trimester induced abortion among women in Ethiopia and assess their contraceptive use among women experiencing abortion in Ethiopia. The topic is very important and the result of this study would add significantly to the scientific evidence in this setting. One major concern is the design and to what extend the comparison between ANC women (reference) and the cases (induced abortion women) add to the understanding of the determinants for women inducing abortion. The manuscript need revisions before it could be considered for publications. Please see below the suggested improvements.

INTRODUCTION

The introduction is well written and covers all important aspects and concepts related to the topic studied. A nuanced picture about the situation in Africa as well as the study setting in relation to induced abortion, unsafe abortion and post abortion care is described.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. What could be clarified in the background is the chosen method and why the comparison between the women admitted for abortion and the ANC women are included. The paper would benefit having a problem statement motivating the design and method.

2. The last sentence page 1 line 32 should be conformed to the aim in the abstract. Do you describe women’s use of contraceptive or their experiences?

METHOD

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

3. Include description of design and method. It is unclear if you have utilized case-control design. When you read abstract, aim, method and the result section the reader may get the impression that the focus is to describe (cross sectional design) the determinants among the women inducing first and second trimester abortion.
4. To get a comprehensive picture of the study population and recruitment at the different facilities I suggest you include a flow chart.

5. The method section would benefit having a developed description of the definition of variables included.

6. If the design is case-control the method section should clarify how the sample of controls was recruited.

RESULT

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

7. The result sections seem to focus on the description of the women admitted for induced abortion. The inclusion of controls seems a bit ad hoc and the analyses between the cases and controls do not contribute to the understanding of the determinants of women with induced abortion.

8. It is not clear in the result section what analyses you refer to, is it the induced abortion women only OR an comparison between the cases and controls. This needs to be clarified.

9. An interesting variable to include would be abortion method used (Medical or surgical) and women’s acceptability of the chosen method.

DISCUSSION

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

When the result section and what analyses you have conducted is clarified this could be demonstrated also in the discussion.

10. The predictors for induced abortion identified are they related to case-control result or simply descriptive statistics of this group only?

11. Do you have enough caseload to calculate contraceptive prevalence rate? The method section does not include power calculation.

12. The problem of unintended pregnancy due to lack of access to contraception could be elaborated on further and this in relation to the existing evidence from Ethiopia. I miss several publications from Ethiopia that focuses on induced abortion and contraceptive use.

13. The authors could consider defining the group of women they refer to when age below 19 (adolescents) age 15-24 (youth). The WHO has recently launched reports on adolescents SRH.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'