Reviewer’s report

Title: Women’s experiences of a diagnosis of gestational diabetes mellitus: a systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 18 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Pantaleo Greco

Reviewer's report:

Abstract/Background: sentence: "The aim of this qualitative systematic review was to identify the psychosocial experiences a diagnosis of GDM has on women during pregnancy and the postpartum period". Instead of "has" I would rather use the word "causes".

Abstract/Results: sentence: "Women commented about the added responsibility (eating regimens, appointments), financial constraints (expensive food, medical bills) and conflicts with their cultural (alternative eating, lack of information about traditional food)". Instead of "cultural" I would use "culture".

Background. Pag.3 row 59: sentence ", ill-health and increased surveillance". I would rather write ", ill-health and requiring increased surveillance".

Background. Pag.3 row 64-65: sentence "Some of this is due to the increasing age of women becoming pregnant, more women being overweight, more testing, and better recording.". Please rewrite this sentence more clearly.

Background. Pag.3-4 row 66 to 71: sentence "However, much of the rise has occurred since 2013 when some countries adopted the new IADPSG criteria and testing regimen for gestational diabetes, which led to the anomalous position that two women in two countries with exactly the same glucose levels may or may not be diagnosed with GDM depending on the country's definition, greatly altering the pregnancy experience. Caution was raised that the new IADPSG definition would increase prevalence of women diagnosed with GDM by two-to-three-fold.". Please rewrite the sentence to make it clearer.

Results. Pag 7 row 169 to 170: sentence "As the purpose of all the studies was to explore or gain knowledge levels, opinions or attitudes about GDM the qualitative methods that were employed in all the studies was appropriate". Instead of "was appropriate" I would use "were appropriate".

Results. Pag 8 row 218: sentence "Some women stated that they would have preferred to have been more prepared to have received the diagnosis and have early knowledge about the testing for diabetes.". I would rather write "Some women stated that they would have preferred to be more prepared to receive the diagnosis and have early knowledge about the testing for diabetes.".
Results. Pag 9 row 260-261: sentence "Women prioritised the health of the baby and were willing to do anything so as not to compromise that, with women reporting that the baby's health took precedence over their own." Please rewrite this sentence in a clearer way.

Discussion. Pag 12 row 360: sentence "seems to dissipate after birth most likely due to the driver to protect their unborn child is no longer there." Please rewrite this part of the sentence.

Conclusion: in the conclusions of this study the Authors suggest that, considering the rising incidence of GDM and the "potential minimal clinical improvements" and on the other hand the range of psychosocial experiences identified in the study, HCPs might reconsider the current definition of GDM. In my opinion this conclusion is maybe not completely fitting in this kind of study. Considering that this review focused on the psychosocial aspects of GDM and not on its maternal and fetal medical complications, I would focus the conclusions on the improvements that should be achieved in psychological and social management and in counselling rather than on changes in GDM definition and diagnostic criteria.

I think it should be more emphasized the fact that the population in exam is not homogeneous, as the studies considered in this review have samples from many populations which differ in ethnicity, habits, BMI, etc… and this kind of differences have a strong impact on blood glucose values, required dietary changes and GDM consequences in later life.

I suggest a review of the English from an English-speaking language reviewer.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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