Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of socioeconomic factors on choice of infant male circumcision provider in rural Ghana; a community level population based study

Version: 0 Date: 07 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Mbuyiselo Douglas

Reviewer's report:

General comments
I find the use of "we, our" throughout the study to be very subjective and problematic. The authors are subjective from the begging to the end of the study. In the academic style of writing the authors need to be objective.

Abstract
The aim of the study is missing in the background of the abstract. In line 7, page 2 of the abstract under the methods, the authors reported "We investigated the effect of family income...." I suggest the authors to write as follows: The study investigated the effect of family income...... The rest of the abstract looks good.

Introduction
Introduction is always literature review of relevant studies, the authors are expected to report the literature related to their manuscript but not to quote their previous study they published as subjective to themselves. The introduction is very brief in its present form. In line 8, page 3, "we reported high risk of ....... There is missing word/words after "risk of" at the same time the authors are supposed to report their previous study in an objective point of view.

Methods
Study design
Study design sub-section is missing; it should provide a brief overview of the study, a brief (i.e., one sentence) description of the research approach (i.e., quantitative, cross sectional study; qualitative, key informants), and a brief (i.e., one sentence) rational for this approach.

Data Collection
The method used to collect data is not clear. There are field workers and key informants. If it was a cross-sectional study (suppose a questionnaire was used). If key informant (structured or semi-structured interviews were used). In line 39, page 4; Fieldworkers visited families at home …..and interviewed mothers, using what method of data collection?
From line 10 - 40, page 5, that information does not belong to data collection; it is supposed to be under study design sub-section.

Data Analysis
In line 34, page 6, the section is label Statistical Analysis instead of Data Analysis. At the end of the paragraph, the authors reported that all the analyses were conducted using STATA version 13. Does that include qualitative data analysis from the key informant interviews?

Ethical Issues
In line 17, page 7, Written informed consent was; it should be: Written informed consent forms were……..

Results
In line 41, page 7, Figure 1 is cited but it is missing, rather 5 tables are attached.Table1 and 2 are very nice and big but not all the variables are explained and the significance thereof. In line 44, page 7; 4005(49%) and 2850 (90.7%) - the sentences are started by a numerical figures). The sentence should start by words, e.g., Forty nine percent (4005) were male infants and 78% (3141) were under…..
The statistics are confusing - 2850 is said to be 90.7%?? of circumcised infants in line 44, page 7, this is the figure that also appears in Table 1, top right corner. There is also a missing data of n=3; what is the actual frequency of the all the circumcised male infants? Is it 2847 or 2850. If circumcised + uncircumcised = total number of infants, that implies 2850 + 291 = 3141 (total
sum of all infants). How do authors come to the conclusion of 90, 7% of circumcised infants? If it is the case, Ghana has a very good circumcision rate of infants in Africa.

Discussion
The topic of the study is: The public health and economic implications of infant male circumcision in rural Ghana; a community level population based study. The meaning of implication is: the conclusion that can be drawn from something……. Although the authors did not list the word - implication under the key words but it is in the topic and it is very important and a public health concern in relation to male circumcision in Africa. Given the fact that male circumcision lowers HIV infection by 60%, what are the public health implications to the rest of the poor communities without access of free male circumcision?
In line 37, page 20, the authors stated, "it also appears to be the first study that has described the high and inequitable cost…….." This study seems to be more on health economics than public health. The discussion does not qualify the topic public health and economic implications. The discussion relates more to the topic of: Inequitable cost of infant male circumcision in rural Ghana…………..

Conclusion
Conclusion is omitted in the study but only appears in the abstract. The authors need to include at least a paragraph of the conclusion.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

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

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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