Reviewer’s report

Title: Anatomical Patterns of Cleft Lip and Palate Deformities Among Neonates in Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia: the Implication of Environmental Impact

Version: 0 Date: 22 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Liat Lerner Geva

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript addresses the very important issue of cleft lip and palate birth defects. As stated by the authors, a significant data collection effort was conducted using a structured checklist to summarize information from over 37,000 deliveries (Page 7). However, only descriptive information regarding the incidence of cleft lip and palate birth defects is presented in the Results section with stratifications by sex of neonate and additional congenital malformations.

While the Methods and Materials section includes mother's information, socio-demographic factors as well as "calculation of the association between explanatory variables and outcome variables, odds ratio to determine the strength of association of selected variables using multinomial logistic regression model", none of these are presented in the Results section.

Therefore, the only presented results are plain descriptive rates, thus diminishing the scientific merit of this important research.

Minor comment: the methods and materials text appears twice' both on pages 6-7 and again on pages 8-9

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.

No
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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