Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of positive depression screen among post miscarriage women. A cross sectional Study.

Authors:

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1:
Regarding the sample size – The sample size was calculated using the formula depicted on page 7 and was to be a minimum of 173 women which we even exceeded. The suggestion to increase the sample size may be well meant but this is difficult since we can’t continue with the study due to the elapsing of time period we had gotten research approval to collect data and also lack of financial support.

Reviewer 2:

Background changes:
The background needs to be expanded – I have expanded the explanation on the impact of depression on subsequent pregnancies, the reason we studies he specific population, how the literature is lacking in studies of depression after a miscarriage - Page 2 line 13 to 21 and page 3 line 5 to 8.

However, including subtopics in the background may not be in keeping with the writing style of the journal to have subheadings in the background.

Methodology changes:
The section headers should be consistent in their formatting – this has been changed – Page 5 to 8.
The shorter sections can be integrated into paragraphs – we have integrated them into paragraphs – Page 5, line 16 to 20.

The study design should be further explained – this has been explained – Page 5, line 6 to 8.

Study setting and participants information needs to be expanded – this has been added. Page 5, line 16.

For study procedures, more information should be provided – page 6, line 6 to 7.

Further information on study tools has been included - Page 6, line 11 to 23.

In sample size section – explanation on sample size is included and we have formatted the equation to more of a paragraph then point form – Page 7, line 2 to 17.

For ethical considerations – information pointed out has been added - Page 8, line 11 to 15.

Results section:

The standard deviation should be reported with mean age – This has been added – Page 9, line 8.

The n should always be italicized – It has been italicized – Page 9 to 10.

Table 1 – we have made changes as suggested.

It is unclear what "mode of management" means in the paper – this has been changed to ‘mode of treatment’.

The analyses suggested have been conducted and are included in a follow up manuscript of this paper – The authors thought that in order to focus the message of this paper, the other analyses should be published as a separate paper which will postulate the impact of socio-demographic factors on the occurrence of depression after a miscarriage.

Discussion section:

The discussion should be broken up into subheadings – sub headings suggested have been added and modified to match the formatting of the journal.

Additional implications should be discussed – thee have been added in the manuscript - Page 13, line 8 to 10.

On page 14, authors report that "history of childhood abuse," "sleep," and "anxiety" were investigated, but not sufficiently powered to report – these were not studied in the present study
but were identified as implicating factors in women with postnatal depression – this is explained on page 13.

Clinical implications are not included, but need to be discussed – this has been included in the conclusions section – Page 15, line 8 to 12.

Language & Formatting

Authors should not refer to women as "post-miscarriage women" but rather "women who experienced a miscarriage – this has been changed in the text, however in the title I has been preserved so as to still keep it succinct.

Throughout the paper, authors’ state, "prevalence of positive depression screen," but they can say "prevalence of depression”.  – This has been described as it is because the EPDS is a screening tool and hence changing it to the prevalence of depression may not be a true description.

Numbers under 10 should be written out – this has been changed.

Any abbreviated words should be written out the first time and then abbreviations can be used – This has been done.

All paragraphs should be indented – This has been done.

All subheadings should be consistent – this has been corrected.

Numbered citations in text should be in brackets rather than parentheses – This has been done.

Authors should consider a more concise title for the manuscript – This has been shortened.