Reviewer’s report

Title: Self-medication with over the counter drugs, prevalence of risky practice and its associated factors in pharmacy outlets of Asmara, Eritrea

Version: 0 Date: 22 May 2018

Reviewer: Jeff Taylor

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for doing this work.

As I hope you are aware, this type of data has been regularly reported in the global literature. But, I commend you for finding results for your country. It is all important.

The work has to be cleaned up from a grammatical perspective, whether published here or somewhere else.

Regarding the literature you cited, I would recommend that you first come in from the global perspective, then to developing countries, then finally to your particular part of the world. Currently, the references presented jump around from various parts of the world. For example, on line 94, you cite a UK reference (17), which is of course fine, but refs 3-7 sort of set the stage on how you order things.

However, IF your context is ONLY the developing world, then go with that alone.

More to referencing, line 86 cites Ranjith, then Hashita, but the ref is from Manohar; this is undesirable.

I would also caution that the AHFS 2000 is not the best reference for minor ailment matters. Further, you cite work done on Italian teenagers [19] on package reading; is that the best work to present? Doing so comes across as simply citing a reference, as opposed to a broader feel to what goes on in this area.

We need far more information on how data was collected, even though Editors may eventually cull that down. For instance, we have no info on how you assessed Attitude towards OTC drugs nor Knowledge of OTC drugs. Those are very hard to operationalize and quantify.

You mention interviewing every 36th customer, yet that info does not seem to appear in the work.

I would pose to you that a riskier behavior is taking several OTC drugs, yet that does not seem to gain prominence in the work, while storage (refrigeration) does.
Your definition (although not actually defined in Oper Defns) of "self-medication" becomes a bit suspect when, on line 175, you state the involvement of pharmacists and doctors in the process. Is that still "self"-medication then?

Your position on risky behavior is really complicated by the fact that consumers may not even have access to a leaflet, or one in their native tongue. Do you feel that somewhat absolves them of engaging in risky behavior?

Respectfully submitted.

**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.

Yes

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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