Author’s response to reviews

Title: Knowledge, attitudes and peer influences related to pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health among adolescents using maternal health services in Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

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Version: 3 Date: 19 Jun 2019

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19th June 2019

Dear Editor and Reviewers

RE: Resubmission of Manuscript

I acknowledge receipt of the manuscript titled: Knowledge, attitudes and peer influences related to pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health among adolescents using maternal health services in Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Thank you for the constructive feedback.

• We have uploaded the ethics certification letter for this manuscript.
• We indicated that the informed consent was written. “Ethical clearance to conduct the study was obtained from the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (BE553/16). Institutional approval was granted by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and the Chief Executive Officer of the district hospital to conduct the research. Participation was voluntary and informed consent was granted by all participants. The informed consent was written. Parents’ or legal guardians’ permission was obtained for each participant under the age of 18 who participated in the study.”
We have also uploaded the questionnaire that we used. We provided a reference for the Healthy Pregnancy Knowledge Survey (HPKS) questionnaire. We were given permission to modify and use this questionnaire.


We included the abbreviations used in the study before the declarations.

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
MMSE: Modified mini mental state exam
SRH: Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI: Sexually transmitted disease

The funding section has included the role of the funding body.

The research was supported by the UKZN College of Health Sciences Research Office, the Fogarty International Centre (FIC), NIH Common Fund, Office of Strategic Coordination, Office of the Director (OD/OSC/CF/NIH), Office of AIDS Research, Office of the Director (OAR/NIH), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH/NIH) of the National Institute of Health under Award Number D43TW010131. The content and comments reflect the views of the authors and do not represent the official views of the National Institute of Health. The funders had no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

The author contributions have been updated as advised.

DG was a principal investigator, SN was the supervisor, and MT was the co-supervisor. All the authors contributed equally to the preparation of the paper/article. All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

We have cleaned the manuscript of all changes
We used the word frequencies and percentages consistently in the manuscript
We have explained the p values in Table 7. We also indicated the test statistic used.

As shown in Table 7, there was no relationship between answering the pregnancy and HIV/STI knowledge questions correctly and having a repeat adolescent pregnancy. Almost equal proportions of the participants with and without repeated pregnancies answered 50% or more
questions correctly. Age was positively associated with adolescent repeat pregnancies whereby older participants had higher repeat pregnancies than their younger counterparts (p<0.0001). The participants with a secondary level of education had fewer repeat pregnancies indicating that a higher education level was a protective factor against repeat pregnancies (P<0.0001)

With thanks

Regards

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