Author’s response to reviews

Title: Role of HIV in the desire of procreation and motherhood in women living with HIV in Spain: a qualitative approach

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Version: 2 Date: 19 Aug 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you very much for considering our work for publication in the prestigious journal BMC Women's Health. We attach a new version of the manuscript “Role of HIV in the desire of procreation and motherhood in women living with HIV in Spain: a qualitative approach”.


Please, find below our responses to both, Editor's and Reviewers' comments.

Please, note that I will be out of the office from 20th August to 29th August. I will be happy to answer further requests after this date.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank both reviewers for their useful comments.

We thank you again for giving us the opportunity to re-submit our work and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Débora

BMWH-D-16-00083R1

Role of HIV in the desire of procreation and motherhood in women living with HIV in Spain: a qualitative approach Debora Alvarez-del Arco; Sabela Rodríguez; Mª Jesús Pérez-Elías; Jose Ramón Blanco; Sandra Cuellar; Jorge del Romero; Ignacio Santos; Vicente Boix; Mar Masia; Lydia Pascual; Victoria Hernando; Cohort CoRIS (In Memoriam: Alicia Llacer) BMC Women's Health

Dear PhD Alvarez-del Arco,

Your manuscript "Role of HIV in the desire of procreation and motherhood in women living with HIV in Spain: a qualitative approach" (BMWH-D-16-00083R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Women's Health, once you have carried out some essential revisions suggested by our reviewers.

Their reports, together with any other comments, are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at http://bmwh.edmgr.com/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as BMC Women's Health has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.
Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit a revised manuscript online at:

http://bmwh.edmgr.com/

If you have forgotten your username or password please use the "Send Login Details" link to get your login information. For security reasons, your password will be reset.

We request that a point-by-point response letter accompanies your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be found (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found in the Instructions for Authors on the journal homepage.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 25 Aug 2017.

Please note that you will not be able to add, remove, or change the order of authors once the editor has accepted your manuscript for publication. Any proposed changes to the authorship must be requested during peer-review, and adhere to our criteria for authorship as outlined in BioMed Central's policies. To request a change in authorship, please download the 'Request for change in authorship form' which can be found here - http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#authorship. Please note that incomplete forms will be rejected. Your request will be taken into consideration by the editor, and you will be advised whether any changes will be permitted. Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorized attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Tovah Honor Aronin, Ph.D.

BMC Women's Health

https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/
Editor Comments:

Thank you for your submission to BMC Women's Health. In addition to addressing the reviewers' comments below, please address the following editorial comments:

**Response: We would like to thank the Editor for her comments that have substantially improved the article.

- Please ensure that you manuscript adheres to the COREQ guidelines for qualitative research (http://intqhc.oxfordjournals.org/content/19/6/349.long). Please include a completed COREQ checklist as an additional file.

**Response: We have checked our article through COREQ criteria. Additional information to adhere COREQ guidelines for qualitative research and COREQ checklist is now included in Annex 2.

- Please add a sentence to the beginning of your abstract introducing the challenge of motherhood for women who have been diagnosed with HIV.

**Response: We have included the sentence and rephrased the abstract.

- "Consent for publication" refers to consent from the participant. If this is not applicable to your manuscript, please change your statement to "not applicable."

**Response: We have changed it.

- Please edit your manuscript for proper use of English.

**Response: Article has reviewed by an English-Native Speaker. However, if the Editorial Committee suggests that a further review is needed, please, let us know in order to proceed with it.

BMC Women's Health operates a policy of open peer review, which means that you will be able to see the names of the reviewers who provided the reports via the online peer review system. We encourage you to also view the reports there, via the action links on the left-hand side of the page, to see the names of the reviewers.
Reviewer reports:

Cynthia Fair (Reviewer 1): Thank you for the opportunity to review your revised manuscript.

The manuscript is much improved and better organized. There are still some issues with flow and use of English. I have included one specific comment below:

**Response: We would like to thank again Dr. Fair for her comments that we have all addressed. English have been reviewed by a native-speaker and flow has been changed in order to help with article organization.

Results:

* Page 11 lines 2-3 related to unplanned pregnancy read "In these situations, pregnancy is the result of a careless use of contraceptive methods." Do you know this to be accurate? This statement assumes contraceptive methods were available and seems to imply that she has control over their use.

**Response: Absolutely agree with this comment. We have rephrased this: “In these situations, pregnancy is the result of an inconsistent use of contraceptive methods which reasons have not been explored”.

Best of luck with your work.

**Response: Thanks a lot for your wishes.

Saara Greene (Reviewer 2): The Authors have adequately responded to most of the suggested revisions.

**Response: We would like to thank again Dr. Greene for her comments that we have all addressed.

There is still a need to more fully explain the analysis process beyond referring to the type of analysis.

**Response: In order to make it clearer, we have added the following information:
“We analyzed data using a content analysis approach. Following this approach, some of our codes derived from our theoretical framework and other were directly derived from the retrieved data. To do this, two researchers independently encoded the data using the “Open Code” software [18] that allowed us to better organize data within transcriptions. Codes were discussed between both researchers and agreements were reached among them. We interpreted codes taking into account the underlying context and participants’ characteristics.

Analytical dimensions that grouped codes were generated from the code list and reviewed and discussed with the rest of the team with experience in qualitative analysis”.

There is also a need to deepen your findings. As it currently stands, the findings do not warrant the depth of analysis or discussion. There is not enough qualitative evidence to support some of the larger claims you are making. Perhaps the way around this is to be clear that a women living with HIV has a similar journey to motherhood (or not) as other women however, the women in this study demonstrate that HIV adds a layer of complexity regarding these decisions. Making clinicians and other professionals who support women living with HIV aware of these issues will ensure that women living with HIV are supported in fulfilling their desires to have children (if they do indeed want to become pregnant) and in the early days of motherhood....

**Response: We have rewrote all the article in order to take into account all reviewer’s suggestions that we consider very important issues.

Please proof read for grammar.

**Response: English have been reviewed by a native-speaker.

I look forward to seeing these changes and the final version of the paper!

**Response: Thanks again for all you reviewer work.

If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English. If you would like professional help in revising this manuscript, you can use any reputable English language editing service. We can recommend our affiliates Nature Research Editing Service (http://bit.ly/NRES_BS) and American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS) for help with English usage. Please note that use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of publication. Free assistance is available from our English language tutorial
(https://www.springer.com/gb/authors-editors/authorandreviewertutorials/writinginenglish) and our Writing resources (http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources). These cover common mistakes that occur when writing in English.

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Please read the following information and revise your manuscript as necessary. If your manuscript does not adhere to our editorial requirements, this may cause a delay while this is addressed. Failure to adhere to our policies may result in rejection of your manuscript.

In accordance with BioMed Central editorial policies and formatting guidelines, all manuscript submissions to BMC Women's Health must contain a Declarations section which includes the mandatory sub-sections listed below. Please refer to the journal's Submission Guidelines web page for information regarding the criteria for each sub-section (https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/).

Where a mandatory Declarations section is not relevant to your study design or article type, please write "Not applicable" in these sections.

For the 'Availability of data and materials' section, please provide information about where the data supporting your findings can be found. We encourage authors to deposit their datasets in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate), or to be presented within the manuscript and/or additional supporting files. Please note that identifying/confidential patient data should not be shared. Authors who do not wish to share their data must confirm this under this sub-heading and also provide their reasons. For further guidance on how to format this section, please refer to BioMed Central's editorial policies page (see links below).

Declarations

- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
Acknowledgements

Further information about our editorial policies can be found at the following links:

Ethical approval and consent:
http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#Ethics

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