Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and severity of menopause symptoms among perimenopausal and postmenopausal women aged 30-49 years in Gulele sub-city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Author’s response to reviews:

Point-by-point response to reviewers’ and editor’s comments on the manuscript entitled “Prevalence and severity of menopause symptoms among perimenopausal and postmenopausal women aged 30-49 years in Gulele sub-city of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia” (MS: BMWH-D-16-00086R1).

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We are very grateful for the valuable comments that all reviewers and the editor have provided us. We have taken due consideration of the comments provided and made all necessary revisions to the manuscript. We have provided a point-by-point response to the comments as follows.
Response to Nese Yuksel, BScPharm, PharmD:

COMMENT: I believe the authors have done a great job with revising the manuscript and responding to the reviewers’ comments. I have very few suggestions, just a couple of minor revisions.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you.

Discussion

COMMENT: Page 15, line 60 - would suggest changing more broadly to "using hormone therapy (HT) or non-hormonal options (such as venlafaxine, paroxetine, etc)". Can reference the 2016 IMS guidelines (Baber et al. 2016 IMS Recommendations on women's midlife health and menopausal hormone therapy. Climacteric; 19:2:109-150) instead of the ones currently referenced. These guidelines provide a good review on options. As well, though there may have been a study on folic acid (that you referenced), this is not commonly used for treatment of vasomotor symptoms. Suggest looking at the IMS reference

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: We have utilized the reference suggested and revised the manuscript based on the article. We have also removed information regarding folic acid as a non-hormonal treatment alternative of menopause symptoms and relied on the reference suggested, which we found an update version. This revision can be found in track changes under discussion section, line 19-21, page 14.

Limitations

COMMENT: It should be added that the data on HT use (or other options for menopause symptoms) was not captured. Some women could have been on HT therefore may have affected the interpretation of the MRS (ie what if there symptoms were being managed with the HT)?

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: We collected information regarding women’s use of contraceptive methods during the data collection period. However, we did not collect data on the use of hormone therapy and/or alternative options. Thus, we feel that addressing this issue as an additional limitation is valuable and have included our revision on page 15, line 19 - 20.

Conclusion

COMMENT: Spelling mistake "perimenopause"
AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you so much for pointing this. We have revised this accordingly.

Response to Lunic Base Khoza

COMMENT: I greatly appreciate the authors’ efforts on the revision of the manuscript. All comments and questions are adequately addressed and justifiable. The discussion of the findings is adequately presented and included the limitations thereof. The language editing has improved the logical flow of the manuscript.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you!

COMMENT: Just a minor observation regarding inconsistency on the use of concepts such as "participants; respondents or subjects’ in the manuscript. It would be more scenic to maintain one concept throughout.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you so much for pointing this. We have used the term “participant” consistently throughout the text of the revised manuscript and have replaced the terms “respondents” and “subjects”.

Response to Editor’s Comments

COMMENT: Please include copies of your questionnaire in the original language(s) and in English translation as additional files.

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: Thank you for requesting that the questionnaire be included as an additional file. We have included the questionnaire in both English and Amharic languages. We have also indicated this in the text of the revised manuscript under “Data collection instruments and procedures” section, line 16-17, page 7.

COMMENT: In your "Declarations" section, please separate "Funding" and "Acknowledgements"

AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: We have separated “Funding” and "Acknowledgements" sections, and placed the “Funding” section next to the competing interest section, line 4, page 18.