Reviewer’s report

Title: What Contraception Do Women Use After Experiencing Complications From Abortion? An Analysis of Cohort Records of 18,688 Postabortion Care Clients in Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 04 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Beverley Lawton

Reviewer's report:

Thank-you for the opportunity of reviewing this interesting paper. This paper is a good example of connecting silos and giving effective integrated care for women.

Please clarify in the introduction whether this is concerning women who have had a spontaneous abortion with retained products perhaps or those who have had a induced termination of pregnancy (unintended pregnancy or due to foetal abnormality) and then they have complications and attend for PAC. If the abortion is induced then where is it done. What is the legality in Tanzania as regards induced abortions and choices for contraception. Its not clear. I wondered if the PAC was a euphemism for abortion clinics. With abortion providers there is an expectaion that adequate contraception is provided.

These clarifications should be thru out the paper. As it reads it basically says these women are presenting with complications post abortion - not where or whether it was induced - unsafe or otherwise. It would be good to get a grasp on how big this issue is in Tanzania - how many unplanned pregnancies are there that may have abortions and compared to ongoing pregnancies. What is the death rate of women post abortion.

Background

Suggest second sentence be split up and referenced as its a bit confusing. Is the life saving treatment the PAC package. Is more detail needed for the holistic programming model as pertains to Tanzania

Page 5 para 2 line 40 - somewhere it would be good to have a local picture- where abortions are done- are they legal etc and how does Tanzania fit into examples given above.
Discussion

The message around decentralization and training allied health professionals to improve access to services for women is a good one.

Of interest what was the contribution of local researchers to this paper - I see that it appears that both the first and senior authors are not local from Tanzania?

Do you have any data re women having repeat pregnancies over time post their PAC?

Figure 1- don't use acronyms - be good to expand what they all are- what did emergency treatment consist off. I have not got a clear impression of the methodology behind the community empowerment bit

Fig 5 probably could be in the text.

Figure 2 reflects that the clinics are gradually being recruited to the new service. Is that correct.? Do we have any idea of presentation to the clinics before they started with PAC services - numbers and whether they received care or was it all central at this stage.

Figures would benefit from titles being more explicit

For example Fig 4 should have contraceptive method in title. Was there a zero percent for natural method- I would leave it out then - we could debate whether that is a modern method.

Figure 3 . Title and the colour coding not consistent - suggest you define in text modern FP method and use no method for other. This has no method in title but without a modern method as a descriptor

Finally - the title is a good one but perhaps after answering questions re the inclusion criteria of group it may change - Contraceptive choices post abortion complications in Tanzania . But this paper is more than that it also includes the training of health professionals and decentralisation of services. Is there anyway this can be linked to a reduction in maternal mortality which is feasible with adequate emergency treatment and contraception
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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