Reviewer’s report

Title: DOUCHING PRACTICES AMONG WOMEN IN THE BOLGATANGA MUNICIPALITY OF THE UPPER EAST REGION OF GHANA

Version: 1 Date: 05 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Ami Zota

Reviewer's report:

Comments to Author

This is an interesting and unique study on an important women's health topic - vaginal douching practices in Ghana. My most substantial comments relate to clarifying details about the study population as well as the approach towards analyzing the data. On a minor note, the manuscript is generally well written although there are some grammatical errors. For example, the word "commonest" is not a word and should be changed to most common.

Major Comments

Study area and participants

1. The authors say that the female participants "were randomly selected in the Bolgatanga Municipality." Specifically, what were your eligibility criteria (e.g. were there age restrictions, language or reading restrictions, residential location?)?

2. Study area and participants: Who contacted the eligible participants? Was it research assistants, professors, or health workers?

3. How were eligible persons identified? Who identified the eligible participants?

4. What percentage of contacted participants agreed to participate?

5. Can you provide more information about this region of Ghana, is it mostly industrial or agricultural. In term of national economy, how does it rank.

Data analysis and results

6. For Table 4, the percentages should add up to 100 as they go down vertically not horizontally. For example, a reader would want to know, within the "yes" category, what
percentage of participants were aged 15-20 versus over 51? Currently, it is difficult to
determine that because the percentages are tallied by row (percentage of women aged 15-20
who douched versus those who did not douche).

7. In Table 4, you should collapse some of the education categories, because very few people in
your study had no formal education. I would recommend converting the 5 categories into 3
categories. Similarly, you have too many age categories with few numbers so the statistical
test results will not be robust.

8. For knowing the dangers of douching, you can only do a statistical comparison for the "yes"
category not all three categories.

9. For Table 5, consider collapsing the 5 categories into 3 categories (primary, secondary, and
tertiary).

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.

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?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further
assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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