Reviewer’s report

Title: Reasons for Delay in Seeking Treatment among Women with Obstetric Fistula in Tanzania: A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 05 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Joao Paulo Leonardo Pinto

Reviewer's report:

The study "Reasons for Delay in Seeking Treatment among Women with Obstetric Fistula in Tanzania: An Exploratory Cross-Sectional Design." addresses a very relevant issue that affects thousands of women in hazardous socioeconomic conditions around the globe causing a negative impact in their quality of life.

Having said that, the author should consider some suggestions:

- English must be reviewed;

- When the author mention : "Women and girls with untreated obstetric fistula experience multiple morbidity, including neurological damage (...)" this expression is referred to psychological disorders, mental distress or organic disorders affecting bowel and/or urinary bladder?

- Table 1: considerations:
  Author should create a legend for table 1
  Express quantitative data in percentage and mean/SD to be more concise and to provide a clear understanding of such data.
  Also, should expose, if collected, the time since onset of symptoms and looking for treatment. (mean time/SD). It would be an interesting data.

- In the section "Sociocultural factors" I'd suggest adding a paragraph introducing topics about Tanzanian religion and culture that may have an important role in this matter.

- Sampling:
  Need a better explanation on how subjects were enrolled until data saturation was achieved.

"All women with obstetric fistula admitted to CCBRT hospital who had delayed seeking treatment for more than 3 months since the onset of symptoms at the time of data collection were purposefully recruited to participate in this study"

How many women were invited? All women accepted to participate, and the data saturation was achieved by 18th woman interviewed? Or only 18 women agreed to participate, and data was collected from these women?
It would be interesting, if there are a great number of non-participants, to discuss why women didn't agree in join in this study in your results or even in your conclusion.

How was defined 3 months as the cutting-point for delay?

- "Community knowledge about obstetric fistula"
  Family or members of community or even those who accompanied these women to the medical consultation were interviewed as well or this "community knowledge" is based on the women's report?

**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.

Unable to assess

**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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