Reviewer’s report

Title: The effects of occupational pollutants on the reproductive health of female informal street traders in Warwick Junction, Durban, South Africa – a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 21 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Gaetano Riemma

Reviewer's report:

I am really pleased to review the manuscript entitled "The effects of occupational pollutants on the reproductive health of female informal street traders in Warwick Junction, Durban, South Africa - a cross-sectional study".

This study was a cross-sectional evaluation of reproductive outcomes between exposed and non-exposed to pollutants worker in Durban, South Africa. The authors stated the women, who were exposed to pollutants may have an increased risk of developing adverse reproductive outcomes.

The paper was well written and the authors decided to perform a research on a debated hot topic. However, few minor concerns have been underlined while reviewing the manuscript and should be resolved by the authors.

Abstract
Line 32 (abstract): "in" should be deleted
Line 40: this sentence is too generic to be a conclusion for the abstract. Please refer it to the study population.

Background
Line 26 (page 5): citations needed.
Line 6-16 (page 6): this paragraph should be connected with the ones in the discussion section that describes the results of the same papers cited [8;13]

Methods
Line 2 (page 7): the authors should explain the exclusion criteria (if any).
A more accurate description of pollutants to be found in exposed cohort should be added.

Discussion
The discussion needs to be expanded. A more accurate description of pollutants is needed. I suggest the authors to discuss the findings written in those research articles:
- Simonelli A et al 2017 (doi 10.1007/s00420-016-1171-1. PMID: 27718009)
- Blum JL et al 2017 (doi: 10.1289/EHP1029. PMID: 28893721)
The manuscript was well written in English and there is no need for a native speaker check.

**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?**
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:

Acceptable

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