Reviewer’s report

Title: A Qualitative Study on Reasons for Early Removal of Implanon among Users in Arba Minch Town, Gamo Goffa Zone, South Ethiopia: A Phenomenological Approach

Version: 1 Date: 23 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Emmanuel Morhe

Reviewer's report:

This qualitative study sought to use phenomenal approach to explore reasons for early implanon removal among users in Arba Minch town, South Ethiopia. These comments are on the revised version of the manuscript.

I commend the authors for their effort. However, the reviewer comments have not been satisfactorily addressed.

i. Beyond the definition, reasons for choosing phenomenal approach and steps taken in its application in the conduct of this study have not been stated.

ii. Information on duration of implanon use is fundamental information required in the inclusion/exclusion criteria or presentation of the profile of participants of this study that set to determine clear understanding of reasons for unusual early discontinuation of implanon.

iii. Stating "purposive and convenience" selection of participants without further explanations do not provide clarity about the few implanon users whose experiences the study seeks to explore.

iv. Page 5 line 37 -47 is still unclear. In family planning practice long-term reversible (IUD and subdermal implants) methods usually used for birth spacing should not be lumped up with permanent methods (male and female sterilization) that are used for birth limiting.

v. The study revealed well known reasons for implant discontinuation. These include side effects, desire for more children, male partner opposition, 'method failure' and informed decision making process. However in-depth exploration of these reasons, a primary objective of the study has not been done.

vi. Furthermore irregular menstrual bleeding, the leading reason for discontinuation of subdermal implants has been well documented in many settings including Ethiopia. In practice implanon causes scanty and irregular menses. Thus, indicating that most users discontinued the method for perceived or observed heavy menstrual bleeding requires further exploration to have a clear understanding of this important concern of the local users of the method.

vii. Similarly, desire for more children, male partner opposition. Specifically what really constitutes male opposition?

viii. Also, implanon is one of the most effective contraceptives. Hence, experiencing 'method failure' require further interrogation. While on implanon have any of the participants experienced unintended pregnancy? What really happened? Regarding HEWs who reported attending to clients with method 'failure', what really were the associated factors?

ix. Making voluntary informed choice and form of counseling provided require exploration

x. In conclusion, the study has not adequately addressed the set objective

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.

No

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

No conflict of interest to declare
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.