Reviewer’s report

Title: "I prefer a male nurse to a female nurse": Patients' preference for, and satisfaction with nursing care provided by male nurses at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital.

Version: 1 Date: 29 May 2018

Reviewer: Kathleen Finlayson

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article on a cross-sectional study of patients' preferences and satisfaction with nursing care provided by male nurses. The topic is of interest for the nursing profession and it's noted it is the first study in the area in Ghana. I have some concerns re the reporting of the methods and conclusions, specifically:

- In your methods section you describe undertaking a logistic regression analysis, however, looking at the reporting of your results and regression tables, it appears you conducted multivariable linear regressions with the preference and satisfaction scales as the outcomes? This is not clear, as you specify bivariate outcome variables, but I'm not sure how these were derived, and the regression tables, equations and statistics are laid out with linear regression parameters rather than the expected logistic regression odds ratios and confidence intervals.

- Importantly, in your discussion and conclusions, you note that male nurses perform better than female nurses - however, there is no data reported to support this. You report that female patients were more likely to rate male nurses higher on the preference and satisfaction scales than male patients rated male nurses; however, this is not the same as data supporting the conclusion that male nurses performed better than female nurses - it's possible that female patients may have rated female nurses just as high as their rating of male nurses if they had been asked.

Some minor issues include:

- In the first paragraph of the background, consider rewording the 4th sentence, at present it sounds a little like male nurses were historically at the bottom of society as in the 3rd sentence.

- The quote at the end of the second paragraph needs a specific reference and page number

- The primary hypothesis would benefit from rewording in a similar manner to the null hypothesis provided
- In the section describing the questionnaire, the method of measurement for the 3rd section - preference for and satisfaction with male nurses, is not described - were these Likert scales as described for the second section?

- the article would benefit from a grammar edit throughout

- the formatting of references needs editing to ensure consistency

**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.

No

**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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