Reviewer’s report

Title: Knowledge of pharmacy workers on antihypertensive and anticonvulsant drugs for managing pre-eclampsia and eclampsia in Bangladesh

Version: 0 Date: 04 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Dalia Mahran

Reviewer’s report:

General comments:

The study idea about Pharmacy workers' knowledge on antihypertensive and anticonvulsant drugs for the management of pre-eclampsia in Bangladesh is somewhat strange and not dealing with medical and ethical guidelines. This study is dealing with an unaccepted situation to prevent, prescribe and manage preeclampsia and eclampsia in pregnant women by non professional personnel even the pharmacist. Preeclampsia and eclampsia in pregnant women is an emergency situation in obstetrics and couldn't be managed by doctors in primary health care units or other specialties.
The idea could be about how far the pharmacists and pharmacy workers have a role in worsening of the outcome of pregnant with PE/E. This study findings could be used for local use and not for publication. However, I have provided some remarks below.

Abstract:

There is a repetition in writing the objectives of the study at the end of background and in the methods section. Delete the first one.
In conclusion section: "Expansion of maternal and newborn health programs should consider providing additional support and training pharmacy workers - often the first point of contact for women and their families particularly for the management of PE/E". How could we train them to carry the management role for those women??

Introduction

Page 2, lines 51&52: "No A-grade, B-grade and C-grade pharmacists can prescribe drugs rather they are allowed to counsel and dispense drugs [11,12" ]. Of course this is allowed in some cases, sure not for eclampsia and preeclampsia in pregnant females.
Page 4, line 25-29: " The main aim of this paper is to present the current state of knowledge and practices among selected formal and informal pharmacy workers in Bangladesh particularly at the primary health care (PHC) facilities to prescribe, dispense and sell drugs for the prevention and management of PE/E; and which factors are correlated with knowledge of each specific drug".
The aim should be based on a solid clinical and ethical base.

Methods:

In page 5, lines 5-12: In regression analysis: the binominal dependent factor is not mentioned

Results:
In page 5, in table 3, Among the public pharmacy workers, the formally trained service providers SACMOs and FWVs had the highest level of correct knowledge on both antihypertensive drug (39.8%) and anticonvulsant drug (25.2%), followed by pharmacists (28.6% vs 25.0%) respectively. All findings in all tables are based on the same hypothesis. Which is not accepted

Discussion:
No discussion with similar studies, this is the point that this is somewhat a strange idea.
Page 6, lines 51 - 55: "Data indicates that patients who seek medications for hypertension and convulsions during pregnancy from pharmacy workers may end up with limited or inappropriate counseling and may receive inappropriate drugs. We observed that private pharmacies/drug shops mostly run unregulated and without any formal accreditation"
This point and all presented results wit poorer knowledge among pharmacists, in addition to the prescription of drugs by unprofessional workers are dangerous findings which necessitates governmental intervention by law and early intervention to stop this crime.
Page 7, lines 10-32: discussion about prescription of antihypertensives, anticonvulsants drugs, diazepam and phenobarbitone are matching that we are facing a crime for urgent intervention and punishment.
Page 7, 34-56: could be shortened, so much for the idea discussed.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Needs some language corrections before being published
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