Reviewer’s report

Title: Exploring barriers to seeking health care among Kenyan Somali women with female genital mutilation: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 05 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Karin Stein

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript, well structured and the methods chosen are adequate.

I have one key concern which I feel needs to be addressed prior to publication:

One of the main barriers to accessing care for women living with FGM is the fact that they often do not relate their health conditions their genital cutting. They also normalize the symptoms and therefore avoid seeking care.

It is unclear how the authors overcome this while interviewing women. How did they ensure that the barriers described by women referred to FGM specific conditions and not to reproductive and sexual health conditions in general?

At the moment the manuscript could easily refer to general health seeking barriers for this population. Women who are not cut in the area are likely to face very similar barriers.

Also, I would have liked to know more about FGM prevalence in this group. Given the almost universal prevalence of FGM in Somalia, it would be fair to assume that all the women in this community were cut. What are the implications of this for the study?

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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