Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 25 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Karin Stein

Reviewer's report:

The health complications were listed (lines 54 - 67) but, as far as I understand, this is based on a review of the literature. The authors have still not clearly explained how these complications were defined/understood by the study population.

Authors have now stated (among the limitations) the fact that it cannot be affirmed that the barriers faced by this population are due to their FGM status specifically. However, as a reader, I think this section could be further strengthened (I suggest revising some of the sentences for clarity).

The issue of 'normalization' of FGM related long-term complications is only very briefly addressed in the limitations section. I would have liked to read more about this in the discussion and/or limitations section.

Lines 149 to 167 contain several unclear sentences (i.e. section 149-152). Also, some sections seem repetitive (i.e. 157-164). This section could be further improved for clarity.

Also, while authors do explain how they asked about FGM-related complication (general questions on health were asked, followed by specific probes) I would like to know what these specific probes were as this would clarify the spectrum of health conditions that were examined. It still remains unclear if they only asked about FGM-related complications, or if general health conditions were also explored. I suggest this should be specified.

564 -565: The concept 'FGM-interventions' is unclear: interventions to improve health care?

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.

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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