Author’s response to reviews

Title: Factors Associated with Dietary Supplement Use in Saudi Pregnant Women

Authors:

Hanan Alfawaz (halfawaz@ksu.edu.sa)

Nasiruddin Khan (nasiruddin2006@gmail.com)

Najlaa AlOteabi (na19nna@hotmail.com)

Syed Hussain (danishhussain121@gmail.com)

Nasser Al-Daghri (aldaghri2011@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 22 May 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #1:

1. Table 2: Have you ever checked your vitamin status? Ad if Yes och No

   Thank you for pointing it out. Yes it has been added.

2. Table 3: Use column % insted of row %. For example, among dietary supplement users, how many are underweight?

   Tables 3 and 1 are now merged and changes were made accordingly.

3. Table 5: Is this multiple-choice questions? If yes, thats should be stated in a foot note or something.

   Foot note has now been added to Table 4 (previously table 5).
4. Table 6: No need to use FA in the table, write Folic acid

It has been corrected accordingly. Table 6 is now presented as Table 5.

5. In the manuscript: Page 10; row 220. I think is a international recommendation to supplement with folic acid before planning a pregnancy, not only in France. This could be checked.

Thank you for your highlighting this. The recommendation is indeed international and it has been amended.

6. Overall, I would suggest not to shorten folic acid to FA.

The authors agree with the reviewer and it has now been rewritten as folic acid throughout the revised manuscript.

7. Page 12; row 275: this study ads information about dietary supplement use among prenat women living in Saudi Arabia. Should be aded to the sentence. In my first review I asked about if there are any national recommendations in Audi Arabia regarding supplement use during pregnancy. The answer was that there is no such recommendations. This could in some way be added to the conclusion; the authors write that "we recommend education the genreal population through media and health professionals". Maybe also tho work for implementation of national recommendations of dietary supplement use during pregnancy.

The authors really appreciate the comment of the reviewer and we have now revised the conclusion based on the suggestions.
Reviewer #2:

8. Line 65: Dietary supplement use… Line 72: Majority of the participants…. that dietary supplement use is safe. Line 93: …dietary supplement use is safe OR dietary supplementation is safe. Line 113: ...type 2 diabetes and hypertension…

We thank the reviewer for these comments. All sentences were rephrased accordingly.

9. Table 1. The Ns in subcategories under BMI Status do not sum up to 137.

Thank you for highlighting this point. The Ns were based on responses and as such may not truly reflect the sample size per variable. Valid percentage was presented.

10. Table 2. Should the question: "Have you ever checked your vitamin status?" also have options yes and no as the questions below it.

Yes. It is now presented as yes and no.

11. Table 3. Information from this table should be incorporated to Table1. Use title from Table 3.

Table 3 has now been merged with Table 1.

12. Table 4. Health status of babies at which age (e.g. 0-24 months)? If available.

Unfortunately we don’t have this information available.
13. Table 5. 'Multi-variables' in the title does not sound good. I would suggest replacing: Perceptions and behavior related of dietary supplement use among Saudi women.

Thank you for suggesting this title. It has now been changed accordingly.

14. Table 6. Please use "dietary supplements" instead of "supplements".

Table 6 is now presented as Table 5 and changes have been made accordingly.

Reviewer 3 (Marianne Vidler):

15. This isn’t clear, do you mean neonatal health outcomes? This is the same as nutritional status

Sentence has been rephrased.

16. What do you mean by this?

Sentence has been changed to add more clarity.

17. Globally? In Saudi Arabia?

In Saudi Arabia.

18. How?

Content and face validity was established following a review of the questionnaire by a panel of experts. The paragraph was revised accordingly.
19. Do what to attitudes? Improve, change?
   Sentence has been amended to include "improve attitudes".

20. Reference
   References were added.

21. Before 3 months gestation? Gestation?
   Yes.

22. First person
   It has now been changed to third person.