Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Carin Andren Aronsson

Reviewer's report:

Review of the manuscript "Factors associated with dietary supplement use in Saudi pregnant women".

The aim of the study was to study the prevalence of dietary supplement use during pregnancy in Saudi Arabian women and study its relationship with sociodemographic factors, attitudes, behavior and awareness.

1. It is not mentioned in the text but I would like to know if there are any national recommendations regarding dietary supplements during pregnancy in Saudi Arabia. In several countries in Europe, for instance, there are country-specific recommendations regarding iron, folate, iodine etc. If this were the same in Saudi, this would be good to include in the background.

2. Page 4, row 100 - 102; I would move this section and combine it with the section where the pilot study are described (Page 5, rows 109-121).

3. Page 6, row 130: chi-square is used as the statistical method of choice but it is wrong to use the word "determine relationships between use of dietary supplement use during pregnancy.." This method detects differences between two groups. The method do not analyze associations.

4. Page 6, row 136-137: this sentence could be rephrased. What is normal family income in Saudi? "Graduation" should be defined as higher education (number of years? University graduation?)
5. Page 6, row 139-140: "...dietary supplement use before and after pregnancy are presented in table 2". The text in table 2 states: Do you take supplements throughout pregnancy? This question asks is the respondent took dietary supplements during the entire pregnancy. I cannot find any question relating to supplement use after pregnancy.

6. Page 6, row 140 - 143: the sentence is too long and difficult to follow. I would suggest that to change that 62.2% of the women reported having vitamin D deficiency ...

7. Page 6, row 144-146; this sentence is difficult to understand, rephrase.

8. Page 6, row 145 - 148: it would help the reader is the direction of association was described in text. For instance; higher education level was associated with dietary supplement use..

9. Page 6, row 148: Delete (or rephrase) the sentence "With rest of the variables.."

10. Page 7, row 149-150: "No significant association was observed between health consequences in babies and dietary supplement use during pregnancy as compared to non-users" should be rephrased to (for example) "No significant differences in health outcomes in the offspring were observed between users and non-users." To correspond to the results in Table 4.

11. Any thoughts about the difference in fatty acid supplement use in this study population and other populations in Saudi Arabia (as described in the discussion Page 8, row 191-194.

12. Page 9, row 195: no need to repeat the p-values.

13. Why do the authors think it is important to increase the awareness and (change?) the attitudes about dietary supplement use before and during pregnancy? Are there specific
recommendations regarding dietary supplement use during pregnancy that women need to know about (like folic acid)? Should be included in the discussion.

14. The headings for the tables could be improved (overall). Also, as a suggestion; change wording for volunteers to study participants. Be consequent in the manuscript.

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