Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Ulla Uusitalo

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting topic and there seems to be a lot of data. However, the data presentation is not very clear. The aim of the paper is not very clear either.

I would like to suggest that there will be a major re-organization of the manuscript. Several questions should be answered before starting to analyze and write the paper:

1. What is the aim of this study?

2. Who are the participants? Are they representing the population of interest?

3. How were they recruited and where (what does it include to recruit "online")?

4. When were they contacted and studied (in a hospital after delivery)? If they were contacted during the pregnancy they were not able to answer accurately e.g. did they use the supplements the entire pregnancy.

5. Which methods were used (questionnaire) and how detailed the supplement use was asked (e.g. start date, stop date or start week, stop week, frequency of use? Are you interested in which trimester they used supplements)?

6. How was the data analyzed?

Suggestions:

First you could present the general info about the dietary supplement use: % of users/non-users, duration of use on average or categorized, maybe also by age group depending what your research questions are.
If the aim was to describe various characteristics of the expecting mothers and how they are associated with dietary supplement use, they could be classified (the current classification is confusing):

1. Sociodemographics

2. Physical outcomes (e.g. BMI, current health conditions)

3. Behavioral characteristics

4. Perceptions (e.g. is dietary supplement use safe)

Using logistic regression you could predict supplement use (yes/no), e.g. in age categories -25, 26-30, 31-35, 26- and see what are the odds ratios for the age groups using one of the age groups as a reference, maybe the oldest category. In the same way you can study other characteristics, e.g. whether perception (safe: yes/no) is associated with supplement use. You could also run an adjusted analysis and see what the most important predictor of supplement use is.

Conclusions, recommendation from the public health point of view.

Looking forward to seeing a more structured manuscript about this important topic! Thank you for working on this!

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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