Author’s response to reviews

Title: Characteristics of female sexual dysfunctions and obstetric complications related to female genital mutilation in Omdurman maternity hospital, Sudan

Authors:
Khalid Yassin (khalidym@hotmail.com)
Hadeel Idris (aziem@gmail.com)
AbdelAziem Ali (abuzianab73@yahoo.com)

Version: 1 Date: 29 Sep 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer #1:

Major considerations

1. We made the study design clear as recommended.

2. We provided sufficient information regarding the sample size calculation, response rate and any differences between those who consented to participate and those who did not. Also we clarified which variables could have a confounding effects and what they have done to control for such confounders.

3. More information was also mentioned regarding the questionnaire on sexual function, please see the methods under the subheading "Participants". Also we mentioned limitations and strengths of the questionnaire, please see the last paragraph in discussion section. We specified who did carry out the physical examination.

3. Summary statistic: Being there are different summary statistics for the different study designs (e.g. relative risk ratio for cohort and odds ratio for cross sectional) and therefore we provided separate tables for sexual and obstetrics outcomes instead of combining both in one table.

Minor considerations

1. We replaced the terms 'circumcised' and 'non-circumcised' with 'subjected to FGM/C' and 'not subjected to FGM/C' and to remove the term 'sunna' as recommended.

2. Page 3 lines 45-53: We changed the estimate to the latest one.
3. Page 6 lines 1-11: We rechecked all numbers and percentages and it matches to each other.

4. Page 7 lines 22-31 and lines 31-38: We rephrased the sentences as recommended.

5. Page 7 line 60 and page 8 lines 1-3: 'Again we rephrased the sentence and omit the word diaphragm.'

Reviewer #2:

1. We clearly described the study objectives, method and sampling design.

2. Page 2 Line 11-16 - the objective of the study was clearly spelt out as recommended. In this study the characteristics of sexual dysfunction and obstetrical complications were the general objectives But the attitude of women towards letting their daughters undergo FGM.....' was specific one so we don't think this will make confusion.

3. Page 3 line 9-14 – We made the objective mentioned here like that one in the abstract.

4. Line 45 - We use new data on global prevalence of FGM.

5. Line 56 – Yes we are describing this characteristic representing Sudan and we corrected it.

6. Page 4 line 21 – We added stakeholders to health planners and we explained clearly about the specific contributions of these findings in the fight against FGM.

7. Line 21 – We made the objectives in the abstract, plain English summary and in the study design and study area section similar to each other.

8. Line 24 – We clarified who the sample was.

9. Page 5 line 5-6 – We clarified which FGM definition we are using and the source.

10. Line 26 – We clarified that data was entered, cleaned and verified before analysis

11. Line 36 – We edited the sentence as recommended.

12. Page 6 line2-3 - cases were corrected to 230.

13. Line 22-27 – We rephrased the sentence to be clear.

14. Line 35 - We rewrote the paragraph in order to make it more understandable about what complication with what percentages associated with it.
Line 47 – We think this is an 'Interesting.' Finding because it reflected that the different types of FGM affecting the sexual reproductive health. This is interesting because in our community the people believe that FGM type 1 is good and has no impact on the health.

Page 7 line 4 – We re-edited the paragraph as recommended.

Page 8 line 2 – We re-edited the sentence as recommended.

All these changes have been highlighted to be traced easily.

This work may still need some editorial touches; these are welcomed and will be highly appreciated.

Best Regards

For authors: Prof. Ali