Reviewer’s report

Title: Compliance with Iron Folic Acid and Associated Factors among Pregnant Women through Pill Count in Hawassa City, South Ethiopia: A Community Based Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Gezahegn Tesfaye

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper focusing on the compliance of pregnant women for iron folic acid and its correlates in Southern Ethiopia. The authors have made substantial effort to address the research question with appropriate methods. For specific comments in each sub-section of the paper that the authors need to address, please see below

Abstract
1. Please avoid the use of abbreviations in the abstract
2. Remove "All ethical procedures were considered" from the method
3. The conclusion part mentions three factors as predictors but the result part did not point out the two factors (had complications during a previous pregnancy, experiencing side effects in a previous pregnancy) and corresponding Odds ratio
4. The conclusion should focus on the main findings and the way forward should also be succinct. So, please avoid descriptive findings from the conclusion

Introduction
1. I suggest focusing on Folic Acid deficiency than other forms of anemia. So, try to limit the points on others type of anemia in the introduction.
2. Please give reference to "According to WHO's compliance with IFA cut off among pregnant women is expected to take ≥90 IFA tablets on daily basis."
3. Please paraphrase this sentence for clarity "Studies done different parts of the country revealed that Mecha woreda of Western Amhara 20.4 %, and North Western Zone of Tigray 74.9%, and SNNPR 37.1% of pregnant women compliance with IFA".
4. I suggest the authors summarize factors that were associated with IFA compliance from prior studies and how this study fill the gaps.

5. Line 114 to 119 needs re-arrangement and citation with reference. For instance, line 114-115 can be moved to the last part of the paragraph.

Method

1. Move the "Study design" next to "Study area and period"

2. add km to (273)

3. Could you provide some more information about health infrastructure in the study area in Hawassa as a background to international readers

4. You can move the exclusion criteria "Women in the third trimester of pregnancy who were critically ill during data collection period, psychiatric problem, and on treatment of anaemia were excluded" from the Sampling sub-section to study population sub-heading where you can provide the inclusion criteria and description of the specific population of the study. Did you exclude women with hearing disability as this is an interviewer-administered survey?

5. Cite "WHO recommends, IFA is dispensed for 6 months, where anemia is high prevalence"

6. If the measurement of IFA compliance is done in two ways (Self-reported pill consumption within 90 days and Pill count), why do the Title of the study reads "with pill count'? you could take out "pill count" from the title

7. Please cite: "Questionnaire was prepared from EDHS, WHO ANC guideline and other literature"

Results

1. What factors were tested in the bivariate analysis and which factors were dropped from the multivariate analysis? (That means which variables did reveal a p-value of greater than 0-25, as this is your cut off to include the variables in the final model). I wonder if some educational status were included in the analysis. None of the socio-demographic variables appeared in the model
2. What is the (n) for the final multivariate model? I assume you used a List wise deletion system in the SPSS

3. Predictors: (Experience of side effect in the previous pregnancies) is this t mean side effects from any medications or particularly from IFA supplementation?

Discussion

1. The first paragraph should be dedicated to summarizing the main findings and subsequently followed by interpreting these main findings with respect to the literature and providing policy or program implications.

2. Line 205 to 214 (paragraph 1 to 4) is repetitively comparing the magnitude of IFA compliance of the study with other previous studies. It is adequate to tight it up in one paragraph and provide explanations.

3. You don't need to write the CI (confidence intervals) of your study and other studies in the discussion.

4. Would you please add some explanations on the factors associated with IFA compliance in this study? The mere comparison does not help us understand the interpretations.

5. Mention also about the strength of the study

Declarations

1. Add ethical approval reference numbers from the ethics committee.

Language

I strongly recommend the authors to meticulously revise the manuscript for grammatical and typo errors which obviously diminish the quality of this interesting paper.

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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