Reviewer's report

Title: Community attitudes and gendered influences on decision making around contraceptive implant use in rural Papua New Guinea

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Reviewer: Henrietta Williams

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent article. the topic is of importance and well justified. The methodology is sound and data collection seems appropriate for exploring community attitudes and factors impacting on decision making process of implant insertion. The authors are obviously familiar with the geographical region and this area of work and are cognisant of acknowledged gender and cultural attitudes. The participants and focus group discussions as well as in depth interviews demonstrate an attempt to be inclusive of all broad ranging attitudes in the community. A female local research worker who can translate accompanied by a male worker in an attempt to address possible barriers in collecting data is to be commended. The data appears to be analysed appropriately from a methodological perspective and results are written clearly and well presented. The quotes all seem appropriately placed and are relevant. The discussion is relevant and well written. This work is valuable to those working in this community in the area of maternal and child health and will hopefully inform healthcare workers attempting to reduce unmet need for contraception which is very high in this region ( as stated and referenced by authors). My minor comments are Greater discussion of LARC vs implant could aid reader ( I accept the authors statement that implants might best serve this population) but at the same time the author talks about acceptance of depo by the community. Greater discussion around how implants are more appropriate as can be removed and normal menstrual patterns return much more quickly than depo may be relevant here especially around community attitudes.

Irregular vaginal bleeding can result from progesterone only methods ( depo and implants in this context) and maybe some reference should be made to this given that the author states (line 141) that menstrual blood, particularly after child-bearing, is considered 'dirty' and 'dangerous' I think some reflection of this undesired side effect merits mentioning in this context.

Community attitudes and influences on decision making might be a more appropriate title as I feel pathways to decision making weren't really articulated.

I think the difference between young and older male community members is of great interest and maybe could be highlighted more for the reader.

Overall I think it is excellent, of great value and with rigorous methodology applied to a complex and multi-faceted issue. Well done. its nicely written and clear in its conclusions. Above points are minor and just some related thoughts.

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