Reviewer’s report

Title: TOO MUCH TIME? TIME USE AND FERTILITY-SPECIFIC QUALITY OF LIFE AMONG MEN AND WOMEN SEEKING SPECIALTY CARE FOR INFERTILITY

Version: 1 Date: 29 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Arthur Greil

Reviewer's report:

This is a revised version of a manuscript I reviewed earlier for this journal. The manuscript uses data on 92 women making their initial contact with a fertility clinic and 62 of their male partners to explore whether time spent on infertility-related activities is related to fertility Quality of life and anxiety and whether the relationship differs by gender. The authors find that women spend more time on infertility-related activities (research, reflection, discussion with others, and logistics) than their partners. They also find that more time spent reflecting is associated with lower QoL for both men and women and with higher anxiety for men. Time spent in discussion with others was associated with higher anxiety for women and with higher social quality of life scores for men.

I found the original version of the manuscript to be quite well done, but I did have several criticisms. I thought the authors needed to include a caveat stating that it is impossible to draw causal conclusions from cross-sectional data. The authors have added this caveat and have tried to be more careful about making unwarranted causal claims. I did find three places (page 5, line 21; page 6, line 38; and page 12, line 29) where causal language remains. I was also concerned that the authors had not taken full advantage of the dyadic nature of their data and that other statistical methods might have yielded more information. The authors have convincingly defended their design choices and presented evidence that suggests that their findings are robust to different methods. I also had some minor suggestions, and the authors have responded to these appropriately. Once the authors change the causal language noted above, I believe this manuscript will be suitable for publication.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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