Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge about iodine requirements during pregnancy and breastfeeding among pregnant women living in Northern Ireland

Version: 0 Date: 14 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Maria Gianni

Reviewer's report:

The aim of the study was to investigate the current level of iodine nutrition knowledge of pregnant women living in N Ireland.

General comments

The paper addresses a potential topic; however, the relatively small number of interviewed mothers does not allow to generalize the findings; moreover, no data on socio-demographics characteristics is provided.

I would suggest to provide more details on how and when the patients were recruited. When were the routine antenatal clinics or the education sessions were performed (first, second, last trimester)? How was the questionnaire administered (self-administered, was it an interview?)

Could you please explain more in details the sentence "the questionnaire was derived from previously reported questionnaire "?

How long did it take to complete the questionnaire?

Results: with regard to table 4, the reported answers are 16: were there only 16 mothers that gave comments on the topic or have the topics been assembled into macro-areas?

Discussion: line 161: could the authors comment on the fact that motivation among women to make appropriate dietary changes in pregnancy is high although the knowledge regarding the importance of iodine is limited?

I would suggest that the authors do not refer to the specific tables in the discussion but rather simply discuss the main findings of their study.

The author discuss the importance of midwifes in providing nutritional education; was this aspect investigated in the questionnaire? Were the women asked whether they had received some kind of education and, if yes, by who? That would be interesting.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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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