

Peer Review

Review of: "Factors Associated With Hospital Outcomes for Cases of Anemia in Pregnancy at a Regional Level in Burkina Faso"

Hany Akeel Al-hussaniy¹

1. University of Baghdad, Iraq

Major Issues Requiring Revision

1. Conceptual Validity of the Composite Outcome

The combined maternal–fetal outcome variable, although innovative, raises concerns regarding interpretability. Aggregating maternal and fetal outcomes may mask clinically important distinctions.

Suggested Improvement

Provide justification for weighting maternal and fetal outcomes equally.

Include secondary analysis reporting maternal and fetal outcomes separately.

Discuss clinical implications of discordant outcomes (e.g., maternal survival with fetal loss).

2. Potential Misclassification Bias

Gestational age estimation using symphysis–fundal height rather than ultrasound introduces measurement error.

Suggested Improvement

Discuss potential inaccuracies in trimester classification.

Estimate the possible direction of bias on outcome associations.

3. Retrospective Data Limitations

Reliance on hospital records from 2009–2011 may affect data completeness and contemporary relevance.

Suggested Improvement

Provide discussion on the temporal applicability of findings.

Clarify whether anemia management protocols changed during or after the study period.

4. Referral and Evacuation Interpretation

Referral/evacuation is treated as an unfavorable outcome; however, it may represent appropriate clinical escalation rather than healthcare failure.

Suggested Improvement

Clarify the conceptual framework distinguishing referral as a marker of severity versus a quality-of-care limitation.

Consider stratified analysis by severity of anemia at admission.

5. Prevention Quality Measurement

The operational definition of anemia prevention quality may oversimplify antenatal care adequacy.

Suggested Improvement

Discuss additional preventive components such as nutritional counseling, deworming, and infection screening.

Clarify how antenatal visit quality was assessed.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.