

Peer Review

Review of: "Self-Rated Periodontal Health and Its Association With Pre-Eclampsia Among Pregnant Patients in Lagos State"

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Comments to the authors

Title: Self-Rated Periodontal Health and Its Association With Pre-Eclampsia Among Pregnant Patients in Lagos State

Great study, which is well-written. I have, however, included a few issues to be addressed to improve the paper.

1. What was the justification for selecting pregnant patients with pre-eclampsia with no controls?

Granted that this has already been done, I would recommend a change in the title, e.g., Self-Rated Periodontal Health among Pregnant Patients with Pre-Eclampsia, rather than Self-Rated Periodontal Health and Its Association With Pre-Eclampsia Among Pregnant Patients in Lagos State.

2. In the methods section, can you please provide more details on the procedures used for the study?

E.g.,

- At what point in the pregnancy were the participants recruited and the data collected since you adopted a cross-sectional study design?
- If they were enlisted during their antenatal visit, was there a follow-up study to collect the perinatal outcome data?
- When exactly was the questionnaire filled out? Before or after delivery?
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- 3. You report that 8.0% were stillbirths, and some of the mothers were admitted. Were there any pregnant women who were diagnosed with eclampsia/preeclampsia who died? Was there data taken

from them on their self-reported periodontal health, if there were any?

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- 4. The discussion needs some consideration: This study was conducted among pregnant patients with pre-eclampsia and not the general pregnant population, and therefore, any logical comparisons should be made among similar populations.
- Firstly, you state that “Maternal health parameters revealed worrying trends, particularly about hypertensive disorders in pregnancy. The mean systolic and diastolic blood pressures observed in this study were significantly higher than the national averages reported for pregnant women. This finding underscores the burden of hypertensive disorders among Nigerian pregnant women, with potential implications for adverse pregnancy outcomes.” Unfortunately, this comparison is erroneous. This study was conducted among patients with pre-eclampsia who had hypertension as a criterion for diagnosis. This comparison and the conclusions inferred from it are therefore problematic.
- Another statement that needs to be questioned is, “Moreover, the high rate of adverse pregnancy outcomes, including the 8.0% stillbirth rate and 74.7% preterm delivery rate, necessitates urgent attention. These figures exceed regional and national estimates in Nigeria.” These are figures for the general pregnant population. Your study was conducted among patients with pre-eclampsia. It may be a good idea to do a comparison among another population with pre-eclampsia.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.