

Review of: "Prevalence and Associated Factors of Hemorrhoids and Other Perianal Complications During the Puerperium Among Mothers Who Gave Birth at Debre Tabor Referral Hospital, Debre Tabor, Ethiopia, 2022"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for inviting me to review this interesting article.

I come from a place and background with a lot of similarity to where this study was conducted, and I am aware of the challenges that face researchers in such regions and environments. The authors mention that there is a lack of data in developing countries which makes this study important and relevant, and I strongly agree with that.

The title: I agree with most reviewers that the title is too long. From reading the paper, I understand that it is focused on the prevalence of perianal complications during the puerperium in a single centre in rural Ethiopia. This could be the title.

The introduction is well-written.

In the methodology section, the focus was on the sample size and the statistics. Perianal conditions such as haemorrhoids and fissures are prevalent in the normal population. As a clinician (surgeon), I would like to know how the authors substantiated that the patients actually developed these complications during the puerperium and not before even becoming pregnant. If that was not done, it should be mentioned in the limitations of the study section.

I understand that getting consent in a population over half of whom are either uneducated or have primary education is challenging. However, one can get informed consent and fingerprints if they cannot sign. Rural Africa will soon get into lawsuits and legal problems if doctors and researchers do not protect patient rights and protect themselves. Ethical approval bodies at universities and ministries of health, which were not available in the past, are now available and trying to keep up with research proposals.

The discussion section is well-written. The findings are comparable globally, but the importance of this study is that it furnishes a database to that hospital/part of the world as it is the first study conducted there, and that should be clearly stated.

I agree with the recommendations, particularly about intensive health education and inviting local health authorities to provide support to primary health care for pregnant women (prenatal and postnatal care).

