

Review of: "Demographic and Clinical Characteristics of Refugee Children Utilizing Healthcare Services of Türkiye (2021-2022): A Single-Centre Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Congratulations! I really appreciate your paper. This is a remarkable issue, and we need works like yours to better serve this vulnerable population.

I have added some comments below.

Introduction

- "More than 1.8 million, about 50% of all refugees, are children, 15% of whom are under 5 years of age. In March 2022, Ministry of Health Director announced that 754,000 Syrian babies had been born in Türkiye since 2011". **Missing reference.**
- "However, amongst this refugee population, pregnancy and birth patterns include high numbers of teen pregnancies, birth intervals of less than two years between children, and large numbers of children in families. Breastfeeding may be initiated but is discontinued early. Formula feeding is often started, and complementary feeding is initiated too early (<17 weeks) or too late (>26 weeks). Consequently, many of these children have acute or chronic malnutrition. Other factors of concern include premature birth, congenital anomalies, and high risk of child abuse and neglect." **Missing reference.**
- "In older children, higher rates of certain infectious diseases, anemia, dental caries, malnutrition (undernutrition, overweight, obesity) have been described in the literature." **Missing reference.**

Results

- "The average age of the children was 5.2 ± 4.9 ; 3.3 ± 4.5 ; 2 ± 3 years old, respectively."

Adding ED, OC, and IS in parentheses next to each group would be clearer.

- If possible, it would be interesting to know the mortality rate in your sample. This would increase the social impact of

your work.

Discussion

- *"Globally, the most common reasons for admission to the ED were respiratory diseases and gastrointestinal system disorders in both refugee and resident children. Acute respiratory infections and diarrheal diseases remain the leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age".[15]*

Reference 15 refers to a tertiary hospital in Turkey. Probably a different reference should be used to cite the global rates mentioned in the text.

- *"In our study, the malnutrition rate was 5.3% in the outpatient clinic and 17.2% in inpatient services. In the outpatient setting, 2.3% of refugee children were found to be overweight. No anemia was observed; however, borderline ferritin levels ($<13 \mu\text{g/l}$) were noticed in all age groups. Even though the median hemoglobin, MCV, and vitamin B12 levels showed differences between age groups, the mean levels of hemoglobin and MCV were found to be normal according to their ages."*

Table 3 should be cited here.

Table 3

- **The meaning of the hemoglobin values in square brackets in Table 3 is not clear to me.**

If they refer to the minimum and maximum values found in the sample, it may be inconsistent with the statement that no anemia was observed (text above). Also, I would check the 21.1 value; it seems abnormally out of range.

- It would help the reader to have a range of normal values for each age in the caption.

Figure 1

- Does the figure refer to all groups (ED, OC, IS)? Please clarify.

Thank you.

