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# Side Effects and Short-term Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines for Pregnant Women: A Case Study of Southeast Iran

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**About this report**

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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## 1 Original submission

1 comment · 9 Oct 2023

**Parisa Bahmani** Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 9 Oct 2023

Dear Ae,
The manuscript investigates the side effects and short-term safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women in Southeast Iran. It is a valuable study given the ongoing concerns and discussions surrounding COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women. Overall, the manuscript provides important information on the side effects experienced by pregnant women after COVID-19 vaccination. However, there are areas that need improvement before it can be considered for publication:
Introduction:

The introduction is well-structured and provides a comprehensive background on the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of vaccination in pregnant women.
The introduction mentions "vaccine skepticism" but could benefit from elaborating on this concept and providing more context on the factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy among pregnant women in Iran.
Methods:

The study design (cross-sectional) is appropriate for assessing short-term side effects. However, it's crucial to acknowledge the limitations of cross-sectional studies, such as recall bias.
The section about the study population and sample size should provide more details about the initial sample size, the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and the response rate.

The statistical methods section mentions the use of chi-square and other tests but lacks detail. It would be beneficial to provide more information on the statistical analyses performed.

Discussion:
While discussing the side effects, it's important to compare the findings with existing literature to provide context.
The study concludes that more research is needed regarding the possible association between COVID-19 vaccination and miscarriage. It's essential to emphasize that this study alone cannot establish causation.
The conclusion could also mention the practical implications of the study's findings and any recommendations for healthcare providers.
Language and Writing Style:

The manuscript is generally well-written, but there are some grammatical errors and awkward sentences that need editing for clarity.

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# Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear editor and judges

First of all, thanks for your care and attention. Your comments and those of the esteemed referees made our article look better and more coherent. Your honesty in providing your comments helped greatly to improve our article.

On the other hand, our revision of the article according to your comments and the updating of the texts led to more accurate results and more beautiful sentences in the text of the article.

Reviewer 1:
The manuscript investigates the side effects and short-term safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women in Southeast Iran. It is a valuable study given the ongoing concerns and discussions surrounding COVID-19 vaccination in pregnant women. Overall, the manuscript provides important information on the side effects experienced by pregnant women after COVID-19 vaccination. However, there are areas that need improvement before it can be considered for publication:
Introduction:

The introduction is well-structured and provides a comprehensive background of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of vaccination in pregnant women.
The introduction mentions "vaccine skepticism" but could benefit from elaborating on this concept and providing more context on the factors contributing to vaccine hesitancy among pregnant women in Iran.

Response
We have done our best to revise all of your comments and highlighted them within the manuscript.

Methods:

The study design (cross-sectional) is appropriate for assessing short-term side effects. However, it's crucial to acknowledge the limitations of cross-sectional studies, such as recall bias.
The section about study population and sample size should provide more details about the initial sample size, the inclusion and exclusion criteria, and the response rate.
The statistical methods section mentions the use of chi-square and other tests but lacks detail. It would be beneficial to provide more information on the statistical analyses performed.

Response
The study design is revised, and we provide more details about the study population, sample size, and statistical methods in the manuscript and highlight them.

Discussion:
While discussing the side effects, it's important to compare the findings with existing literature to

provide context.
The study concludes that more research is needed regarding the possible association between COVID-19 vaccination and miscarriage. It's essential to emphasize that this study alone cannot establish causation.
The conclusion could also mention the practical implications of the study's findings and any recommendations for healthcare providers.

Response
We revise all of your comments and highlighted them within the discussion part.

Language and Writing Style:

The manuscript is generally well-written, but there are some grammatical errors and awkward sentences that need editing for clarity.

Response
The grammatical errors and clarity of sentences were corrected within the manuscript.

## 2 Revision 1

0 comments

*No public comments in this round.*