

## Peer Review Report

# Review Report on FEAR AND ANXIETY IN PREGNANT WOMEN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Review, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Maria Do Rosário Martins

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### EVALUATION

#### **Q 1** Please summarize the main theme of the review.

Thank you for the opportunity to read this very interesting paper.

It is a quality article with a contribution to scientific knowledge.

Demonstrated knowledge of the domain studied as well as the research process

Thus, the following suggestions are around enhancing the presentation for publication and clarifying aspects of the data and reporting in Introduction, Results, Discussion, table 2

#### **Q 2** Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

The paper has many strengths that should be of interest to the journal audience. Thus, the following suggestions are around enhancing the presentation for publication and clarifying aspects of the data and reporting

#### **Q 3** Please provide your detailed review report to the authors, structured in major and minor comments.

Introduction: The first page of the introduction is too general and does not approximate to the specific topic. It would be good to reduce this information or update it according to the subject of the review. It is not until line 107 that we start with the specific topic. On the other hand, it is necessary to expand the theoretical framework referring to pregnancy, vulnerability and include more referenced studies on anxiety and emotions during pregnancy and the response during COVID-19.

Which is the gap in the knowledge?

Research question: I recommend changing "during COVID-19" to "during the pandemic in the years 2020-2022"

Results: spite including meta-analysis, cohort and case-control studies, the authors only chose cross sectional studies for the review. It has been indicated in the limitations, but the authors should consider the appropriateness of including all these types of studies in the Methods.

On the other hand, the Results are explicative and complete to understand the levels of fear and anxiety. Congratulations.

Discussion: there is a long exposition at the discussion (4 pages) which could be a bit reduced or simplified for the readers.

Despite being an international study, the data has not been discussed according to countries, regions, or public health policies of each nation. For example, in Line 419, you have shown the Italian reality according to Mappa et al [54]. I recommend to highlight these details deeply in the manuscript discussion.

The factors influencing anxiety and fear in pregnant women are discussed, but I miss a compilation (or summary) of the most significant of them at the end of the Discussion as a closing paragraph. This paragraph should include the implications of this study according to these discoveries.

Tables:

Why is Table 2 divided into two columns? Most of the words are repeated. In Table 4, the "participants" column could be detailed indicating subgroups or samples, mean age, as well as other main characteristics of the sample.

PLEASE COMMENT

**Q 4** Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

Yes

**Q 5** Does this manuscript refer only to published data? (unpublished data is not allowed for Reviews)

Yes.

**Q 6** Does the manuscript cover the issue in an objective and analytical manner

Yes.

**Q 7** Was a review on the issue published in the past 12 months?

No.

**Q 8** Does the review have international or global implications?

Yes

**Q 9** Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes

**Q 10** Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

**Q 11** Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

**Q 12** Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

#### QUALITY ASSESSMENT

**Q 13** ➤ Quality of generalization and summary



**Q 14** ➤ Significance to the field



**Q 15** ➤ Interest to a general audience



**Q 16** ➤ Quality of the writing



#### REVISION LEVEL

**Q 17** ➤ Please take a decision based on your comments:

Minor revisions.