

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 72818

**Title:** Pregnancy-Related Psychopathology: A Comparison Between the Pre-Covid-19 and Covid-19-Related Social Restrictions Periods

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05373202

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Chief Doctor, Staff Physician

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Turkey

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-10-29

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-11-20 04:38

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-11-20 04:40

**Review time:** 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** bpgoffice@wjgnet.com  
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

**Peer-reviewer  
statements**

Peer-Review: ☒ Anonymous ☐ Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Good work.

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**Reviewer's code:** 05910223

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for having an opportunity to review the report by Dr. Chieffo D, et al. They reported a case-controlled study for the pregnancy related psychopathology with a comparison between the pre-Covid-19 and Covid-19 related social restrictions periods. The authors showed the negative data on their primary analysis and the assumed effect of social support during the pandemic for maternal depression and anxiety. Although their scope is important, there are major and minor points which should be addressed for the acceptance. Major 1. In the manuscript, the eligibility of this study was not described and why their study has small samples was also not mentioned. The authors should provide the data about how many women were eligible at first and excluded from this study with a flowchart. 2. Moreover, in Table 1, the eligible women had high complication rate of psychiatric disorders in both samples and high rate of psychotherapy in the pre-Covid sample. Due to the unclearness of eligibility and these possible underlying confounders in this study, the external validity may be low and they might fail to prove their hypothesis. Therefore, the authors should clarify and discuss this concern. 3. In the introduction, although the authors pointed out that loneliness during this kind of pandemic had negative emotional effect, I think most of pregnant women do not have problem about loneliness. In fact, the eligible women in this study had enough social support. Instead, many pregnant women may have concerns about their own health and adverse effects on their fetus of the virus, many novel medications and vaccines, which should negatively affect maternal mental health. The authors should describe and discuss this point. 4. The authors should describe the rationale of the usage of STAI-Y and SCL-90R in this analysis. For example, why did they not select

GAD-7? Moreover, please describe and discuss about the previous reports about STAI-Y and SCL-90R for pregnancy women. Minor 1. The authors should provide the duration, eligibility and the number of finally included women in the abstract. 2. The authors should provide the data about the domestic infection situation in their country during the research period. 3. The introduction is too long to understand. Please summarize briefly focusing on what is known and unknown. 4. The authors should provide specific data about psychiatric disorders in Table 1. 5. Additionally, the authors should provide specific data about pregnancy complications in Table 1. 6. What is the difference between psychiatric disorders and current psychiatric disorders in Table 1? 7. What is “medical condition” in table 1? Please clarify it. 8. What is “Stressful life events” in table 1? Please clarify it. 9. If available, the demographic data for occupation and income level should be described in table 1. 10. The data about the trimester of pregnant women should be shown as a categorical variable. 11. In line 4 of page 10 in the result section, the authors mentioned “hospitalized samples”. The eligibility is for hospitalized women or women at outpatient office? Please make it clearer. 12. In the last sentence of the manuscript, the description of the citation is mistaken.

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**Reviewer's code:** 05566451

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**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

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Peer-Review: ☒ Anonymous ☐ Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

1.The concept is interesting, but the number of cases is small. It is suggested to expand the sample size for further study. 2.There are a few misnomers, for example, In the discussion section " We found the Covid-19 group of pregnant women to score lower on state anxiety then the Pre-Covid-19 group, "then" should be "than".