

Client Satisfaction in the Quality of Post Abortion Care Among Women Attending in Public Health Facility of Gambella, Ethiopia

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Abstract: Background: The quality of post-abortion care services is essential to improve the health of women who experience complications from abortion. Abortion and its complication is the most common cause of maternal death in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia. Despite this fact, little attention is given to the quality of post-abortion care. This study was aimed to assess client satisfaction in the quality of post-abortion care among women in the public health facility of Gambella, Ethiopia. Methods: A facility-based cross-sectional study was done among 194 participants. A consecutive sampling technique was used to select the study participants. A structured, pretested, and interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect the data. Binary and multivariable logistic regression analysis was done to identify associated factors. An adjusted odds ratio with 95% CI was used to estimate the direction and strength of the association. Variable with a p-value <0.05 was considered as statistically significant. Results: About 169 (87.1%, 95% CI: (82, 91.8)) participants were satisfied in the quality of post-abortion care (PAC) services. Unwanted pregnancy [AOR=1.8, 95% CI: (1.17, 10.9)], history of abortion [2.1, 95% CI: (1.6, 13.8)], assisted by physician [AOR=3.9 95% CI: (1.6, 8.6)], treated politely and respectfully [AOR=6.3, 95% CI: (1.82, 22.2)], the provider address all questions raised by the client [AOR=5.1, 95% CI: (1.9, 14.5)] were significantly associated factors. Conclusion: The majority of the study participants were satisfied with the quality of post-abortion care services. Enhancing patient care in the facility, strengthening awareness of family planning services, and addressing the questions of the clients in a respected manner are important measures that increase client satisfaction.

Keywords: Client Satisfaction, Post Abortion Care, Quality, Gambella, Ethiopia

1. Introduction

Patient satisfaction is an important and commonly used indicator for measuring the quality of health care as it affects clinical outcomes, patient retention, and medical malpractice claims [1]. The quality of reproductive health care is critical in determining whether the service meets clients' expectations or not, the choice of services, and the constellation of related services [2]. Quality of post-abortion care (PAC) services are essential to improve the health of women who experience complications from abortion [3]. It is a life-saving intervention that reduces the risks of mortality and morbidity [4].

Comprehensive post-abortion care was identified as an important intervention to treat complications resulting from miscarriage and unsafe abortion, reduce the incidence of repeat unplanned pregnancy, and decrease the incidence of repeat abortion, and achieve the satisfaction of clients [5].

Abortion is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality and morbidity worldwide [6]. Evidence showed that above 20 million unsafe induced abortions occur worldwide each year and result in up to 13% of all maternal deaths even though, the majority of these deaths are easily preventable [7, 8]. Among 46 million abortions that occur in the world each year to end un-desired pregnancy, nearly half of them take place in countries where highly restrictive abortion laws

often drive women to seek unsafe abortion with the highest magnitude in developing countries [9].

An estimated 30,000 deaths due to abortion and related complications have been reported in Africa which is over 40% of the total deaths [3]. In sub-Saharan Africa, up to 50 percent of gynecological beds are occupied by patients with abortion complications. World Health Organization estimated that 18% of maternal deaths in East Africa as compared to 13% globally were caused by unsafe abortions [10].

Ethiopia is one of the developing countries with a contraceptive prevalence of less than 15% and the highest maternal mortality rate estimated to be 412 per 100,000 live births [6]. The main contributing factors for this high death toll include unsafe abortion among others. Evidence in Ethiopia indicates that unsafe abortion accounts for up to 25 to 35 percent of maternal deaths [11].

A high proportion of women who undergo unsafe induced abortion require medical care, however, access to quality PAC remains a challenge, especially among low-income countries [12]. Induced abortion is considered illegal in many low-income countries, and women often fail to seek intervention owing to a fear of legal repercussions. In countries where the provision of abortion is restricted or low quality or inaccessible, women often resort to unsafe methods that result in complications, long-term health problems [13].

Evidence revealed that after a pregnancy loss, women were not given family planning information or supplies to space their next pregnancy [14]. Restrictive national laws, lack of access to safe abortion, and lack of quality post-abortion care have led to the premature death of millions of mothers [6, 15]. An estimated 5.2 million women seeking treatment for short and long-term morbidities including uterine perforation, chronic pelvic pain, and secondary infertility [14, 16]. To reduce the risk of long-term illness, disability, and death to women presenting with complications of incomplete abortion, healthcare systems must provide easily accessible, high-quality comprehensive post-abortion care (PAC) at all health care facilities that provide abortion service [17].

Intervention is not provided in time, stigma, cultural, socioeconomic, and religious factors to minimize any conversations on induced abortion [18]. Although complications from unsafe induced abortion can be life-threatening, many women fail to seek PAC because they fear reprimand from medical personnel, whereas others do not seek care due to low income, and cultural practices, even among countries where PAC is highly subsidized [19].

The leading known cause of unsafe induced abortion is unintended pregnancy, which is associated with the unmet need for FP services [20]. Contraceptive interventions are therefore an important pathway to prevent unsafe induced abortions by reducing the risk of unwanted or mistimed pregnancies before and after induced abortion. The PAC Consortium model advocates the provision of FP counseling and services to increase contraceptive uptake and so reduce repeat unintended pregnancies and to succeed client satisfaction [21].

In Ethiopia, abortion is the common cause of maternal death. Assessing the patients' perspective provides evidence for the local and other program planners to provide quality services with the targets measured to the satisfaction of the clients. Studies in Ethiopia on the quality of PAC were limited in the study area. Thus, this study was aimed to assess client satisfaction in the quality of post-abortion service in Gambella, Ethiopia.

2. Methods

2.1. Study Area and Period

This study was conducted in Gambella Town, South-west Ethiopia. Gambella is located 766 kilometers away from Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The town has a total population of 59,462 out of this, 30,326 (51%) were females, and 29,136 (49%) were males [22]. The study was conducted from June -July 2019.

2.2. Study Design

An institutional-based cross-sectional study was used.

2.3. Population

All women who were seeking abortion care in the public health facility of Gambella Town were the source population. All women who received abortion care in public health facilities during the data collection period consisted of the study population. Women who were unable to respond to the interview due to severe illness were excluded.

2.4. Sample Size Determination and Sampling Procedures

The sample size was calculated by using a single population proportion formula ($n = (Z\alpha/2)^2 P(1-P)/d^2$) where, Z is the 95% of confidence level, 5% margin of error (d), and 83.5% prevalence of client satisfaction in the quality of PAC from a previous study done in Guragea [23]. By inserting the number in the formula then it results as $n=206$. By adding 10% of the non-response rate, the final sample size (n) for the first objective was $206 + (10\% \times 206) = 226$, so the final sample size used for this study was 226. For the sampling procedure, all public hospitals in Gambella town were taken. The number of abortion that was done in the public hospitals were taken within two months before the actual data collection begins. After estimating the number of women who attended abortion care, then the population proportional allocation to the sample size was done. Finally, participants were selected using a consecutive sampling technique until the required sample size was met.

2.5. Data Collection Tool and Procedure

A standardized WHO questioner was used for assessing client satisfaction in the quality of PAC [7, 24]. The questioner includes socio-demographic characteristics, health facility, Reproductive Health, and other related characteristics. It was translated to local languages (Amharic, Nure, and Agnuak) by

language experts (person) then it was back-translated to English by another person to check the consistency. Pretest was done on 5% (10 samples) of the sample size at Abebo health center, which is 20 km far away from the study site but the same socio-cultural characteristics with study population before one week of data collection period to check the validity of a questionnaire. Data were collected through a face-to-face interview by four midwives (degree holders). Two public health officers and the principal investigators supervised the data collection procedure. Two days of intensive training on data collection tool, ethical issue, and quality of data was given for data collectors and supervisors. Close follow-up was done by the supervisors and principal investigators through the data collection period. The collected data were cross-checked each day for consistency, and completeness.

2.6. Operational Definitions

Post-abortion clients: Were those who got abortion service and declared by the provider in charge as having an abortion regardless of the cause and type [23].

Client satisfaction in PAC: This was measured by the overall client's perception toward the PAC services they received. This consists of 4 Likert items (privacy, technical quality of provider, information provision, and cleanliness). Those who scored mean

and above were categorized as satisfied and score below the mean categorized as unsatisfied [25].

2.7. Data Processing and Analysis

The data was first coded, entered, and cleaned using Epi-data version 3.1 statistical software version and then exported into SPSS version 20 for analysis. Descriptive statistical analysis such as simple frequencies, measures of central tendency, and measure of variability was used to describe the characteristics of respondents. Then information was presented using frequencies, summary measures, tables, and figures. The bivariable analysis was carried out to see the association of each independent variable with the outcome variable. All Variables with a p-value <0.25 in the bivariable analysis were taken into the multivariable analysis model to control possible confounders. A Co-linearity test was carried out to see the correlation between independent variables using standard error. A Hosmer-Lemeshow and Omnibus test was done to test model goodness of fit. The multivariable analysis was performed in the binary logistic regression up on controlling for the possible confounding factors. The odds ratio with 95% CI was reported to show the strength and direction of the associations. Variable with a p-value less than 0.05 was declared as statistically significant.

Table 1. Background characteristics of participants in public health facility of Gambella town, South West Ethiopia, 2019 (N=194).

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age (year)	15-24	67	34.5
	25-34	66	34.0
	35-49	61	31.4
Ethnicity	Nuer	51	26.3
	Agnhak	30	15.5
	Mejenger	20	10.3
	Oromo	27	13.9
	Amhara	29	14.9
	Others	35	18.0
	No formal education	14	7.2
Level of education	Primary school	38	19.6
	Secondary school	62	32.0
	Diploma and above	59	30.4
	Orthodox	74	38.1
Religion	Muslim	19	9.8
	Protestant	74	38.1
	Catholic	27	13.9
Marital Status	Married	127	65.5
	Single	33	17
	Divorced/Widowed/	34	17.5
Occupation	Government employee	46	23.7
	NGO employee	27	13.9
	Private organization Employee	31	16.0
	Self-dependent	35	18.0
	No employment	21	10.8
	Student	34	17.5

2.8. Ethical Consideration

Ethical clearance was secured from Mettu University College of Health and Medical Sciences Institutional Health Research Ethics Review Committee (IHRERC). The official letter was written from Mettu university to the Gambella health bureau and each public health facility. Informed,

voluntary, written and signed consent was obtained from each head of the health facilities and each participant after clearly informing them about the purpose and risk of the study. Respondents were informed that participating in this study is up to the willingness. To assure the confidentiality of the study participants' information, the interview was conducted in a separate and calm room in each health facility.

3. Result

3.1. Background Characteristics Participants

Among a total of 226 expected participants, about 194 of them were interviewed making a response rate of 86%. The mean age of participants was 29.4 (SD±8.7) years old. About 67 (34.5%) participants were in the age group of 15-24. More than one-fourth, 51 (26.3%) were Nuer in their ethnicity. The majority, 127 (65.5%) of participants were married in their relationship status. Regarding educational level, about 59 (30.4%) were diploma and above, 62 (32%) were learned secondary school, and about 38 (19.6%) were completed primary school. About 74 (38.1%) were Orthodox in their

religion and near to one-fourth, 46 (23.7%) were government employed in their employment status (Table 1).

Reproductive health and other related characteristics of participants

About 63 (32.5%) participants reported they had 3 times gravidity, one-fifth had three children, 117 (60.3%) had a history of abortion, 119 (61.3%) participants were wanted pregnancy. About 83 (42.8%) of participants reported that the abortion was due to financial problems, half of the participants, 98 (50.3%) had no plan for future pregnancy, 188 (96.9%) reported the informed well about family planning use after abortion (Table 2).

Table 2. Reproductive health and other related characteristics among post-abortion clients in Public health facility, Gambella Town South West Ethiopia, June 2019-July 2019.

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percent (%)
Gravidity	One time	28	14.4
	Two times	44	22.7
	Three times	63	32.5
	Four and Above	59	30.4
	No child	48	24.7
Parity/Number of children	One child	42	21.6
	Two child	55	28.4
	Three child	49	25.3
History of previous abortion	Yes	117	60.3
	No	77	39.7
	No abortion history	77	39.7
Number of abortion done before	One time	89	45.9
	Two times	28	14.4
Is the pregnancy is wanted	Yes	119	61.3
	No	75	38.7
Reason for termination	Financial reason	83	42.8
	Health reason	32	16.5
	Partner pressure	19	9.8
	Close pregnancies	14	7.2
	Complete education	46	23.7
	Plastic	55	28.4
Method used (abortion method)	Metal	36	18.6
	Medication	103	53.1
	Only once	44	22.7
Fertility return after abortion	Twice	19	9.8
	Three times	4	2.1
	More than three times	4	2.1
	Never	98	50.5
Do you have a plan for pregnancy	Yes (within 3 months)	9	4.6
	Yes (within two years)	85	43.8
Sex of who assisted by	Male	118	60.8
	Female	76	39.2
The patients were assisted by	Physician	45	23.2
	Nurse/midwives	64	33.0
	Do not know the designation	85	43.8
Information FP Provide	Yes	188	96.9
	No	6	3.1
FP Method provided	Yes	186	95.9
	No	7	3.6
Method provided	Oral Contraceptive (COC)	67	34.5
	Injectable	79	40.7
	Implant	29	14.9
	IUD	8	4.1
	Condom	9	4.6
	Natural method	2	1.0

3.2. The Magnitude of Client Satisfaction in the Quality of Post-abortion Care

Among 194 interviewed clients, about 169 (87.1%, 95% CI: (82, 91.8)) participants were satisfied with the quality of PAC care services given in the health facilities (Figure 1).

About 193 (99.5%) participants said that the providers listened and responded to their questions very well and they gave them a chance to discuss any questions which they want to ask. More than half of the respondents, 134 (69.1%) reported that they were treated with politeness and respect. About 117 (60.3%) said that the provider listens to their concerns, 186 (95.9%) reported that the health care provider addressed all of their questions, 142 (73.2%) reported they feel and received the information and services that they wanted to get, about 166 (85.6%) participants reported that the treatment procedure was verified by the health care provider before the procedure begin., About 147 (75.4%) participants reported that the health care provider explains

the procedures before they were performed, and 190 (97.9%) said that the provider explained the results of the examination.

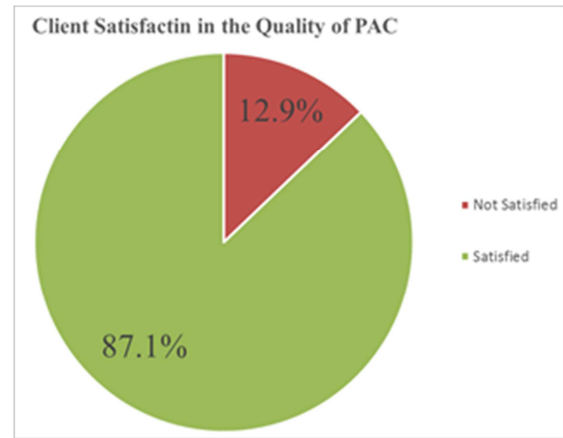


Figure 1. Magnitude of client satisfaction in the quality of post-abortion care among service users in public health facility of Gambella town, Ethiopia, 2019 (N=194).

Table 3. Post-abortion care and client-provider interaction and other related characteristics among post-abortion clients in Gambella town, Ethiopia (N=194) in Gambella, Ethiopia, 2019.

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percent
Treated politely and Respectfully during your stay in this hospital	Yes	60	30.9
	No	134	69.1
Did you have any concerns you wanted to discuss with the provider	Yes	193	99.5
	No	1	.5
Did the provider listens to your idea	Yes	117	60.3
	No	77	39.7
Did the provider respond to all your questions that you raised	Yes	186	95.9
	No	8	4.1
Do you feel that you received the information and services that you wanted	Yes	142	73.2
	No	52	26.8
Before your treatment, did the health professional talk to you about the	Yes	166	85.6
	No	28	14.4
Did the provider conduct health examinations or procedures	Yes	127	65.5
	No	66	34.0
Provider explains the procedures before they begin	Yes	67	40.9
	No	127	59.1
Provider explains the results of the health examinations	Yes	190	97.9
	No	4	2.1
Did the provider tell you danger signs/ that may necessitate revisiting	Yes	172	88.7
	No	15	7.7
	I do not know	7	3.6
Did you take any brochure or educational material to bring home	Yes	154	79.4
	No	38	19.6
	I do not know	2	1.0
The subject of the material that you bring it	FP	40	20.6
	Antenatal/Postnatal	100	51.5
	Delivery service	4	2.1
	Abortion	31	16.0
Offered any antipain medication during the procedure	other	19	9.8
	Yes	127	65.5
	No	67	34.5
The service provider tells you when to come back for another visit	Yes	157	80.9
	No	37	19.1
Receiving the services you came for was reasonable or too long	Reasonable	68	35.1
	Too long	126	64.9
Did you received the contraceptive method during this visit	Yes	179	92.3
	No	15	7.7

Post-abortion Service and Other related characteristics

About 126 (64.9%) of the clients responded that the time spending in the facility beginning from arrival was fair and satisfactory. Regarding the family planning issues, about 176 (92.3%) of participants reported that they get the contraceptive method which they want to be based on their

interest at the time of discharge. About the post-abortion concealing, about 172 (88.7%) participants reported that they received information on current illness, a danger sign, and about 15 (7.7%) of the cases were not informed about danger signs that may necessitate revisiting the facilities (Table 3).

Table 4. Factors independently associated with satisfaction of clients on post-abortion care in public health facilities of Gambella town, southwest Ethiopia, 2019.

Variables	Category	Satisfaction		COR (95% CI)	AOR (95% CI)
		No (%)	Yes (%)		
Marital Status	Married	12 (9.4)	115 (90.6)	1	1
	Single	8 (24.2)	25 (75.8)	9.5 (3.90, 23.5)	1.41 (0.53, 3.7)
	Others	17 (50)	17 (50)	3 (1.1, 8.2)	1.05 (0.39, 2.7)
History of Abortion	No	9 (11.7)	68 (88.3)	1	1
	One times	16 (18)	73 (82)	1.66 (0.69, 3.99)	1.65 (0.67, 4.0)
	≥2 times	12 (57)	16 (43)	5.67 (2.04, 15.7)	2.1 (1.6, 13.8)*
Pregnancy wanted	Yes	20 (15)	114 (85)	1	1
	No	17 (28.3)	43 (71.7)	2.25 (1.9, 9.58)	1.8 (1.17, 10.9)**
The method used (abortion)	MVA	20 (36.4)	35 (63.6)	0.32 (0.14, 1.44)	0.28 (0.11, 1.01)
	DC	6 (16.7)	30 (83.3)	0.92 (0.2, 1.2)	0.11 (0.02, 0.95)
	Medication	16 (15.5)	87 (84.5)	1	1
Patient was assisted by	Physician	7 (18)	32 (82)	6.5 (1.7, 9.5)	3.9 (1.6, 8.6)**
	Nurse	30 (51.7)	28 (48.3)	1.33 (0.276, 2.02)	0.73 (0.26, 2.03)
	Others	57 (58.8)	40 (41.2)	1	1
Treated politely and respectfully	Yes	5 (8.3)	55 (91.7)	6.4 (1.9, 21.9)	6.3 (1.82, 22.2)**
	No	34 (25.4)	100 (74.6)	1	1
Provider address all questions	Yes	5 (6.5)	72 (93.5)	5.42 (2, 14.64)	5.1 (1.9, 14.5)**
	No	32 (27.3)	85 (72.7)	1	1
Explained the procedure	Yes	6 (9.1)	60 (90.9)	3.09 (1.2, 7.86)	2.49 (1.10, 5.66)
	No	30 (23.6)	97 (76.4)	1	1
Receiving anti-pain	Yes	6 (9)	61 (91)	3.28 (1.2, 8.33)	3.08 (1.18, 7.89)
	No	31 (23.8)	96 (76.2)	1	1
Facility waiting time	Reasonable	7 (10.3)	61 (89.7)	2.72 (1.2, 6.5)	2.5 (1.03, 6.20)
	Too long	30 (23.9)	96 (76.1)	1	1

*=p-value <0, 05; **=p-value <0, 01; AOR=adjusted odds ratio; COR=Crud odds ratio; CI=Confidence interval

3.3. Factors Associated with Client Satisfaction in the Quality of Post-abortion Care

In the binary logistic regression, those who were single, history of abortion, unwanted pregnant, manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) method used, assisted by a physician, treated them politely and respectfully, care provider listens and address their questions, clearly announcing the producer, and receiving medication (antipain) were significantly associated factors. However, in the final model (multivariable analysis), Unwanted, history of abortion, assisted by a physician, treated politely and respectfully, the provider address all questions were significantly associated factors (Table 4).

4. Discussion

Overall, about 169 (87.1%, 95% CI: (82, 91.8)) participants were satisfied with the quality of PAC services. Unwanted pregnancy, history of abortion, assisted by a physician, Provider address of all questions, and being

treated politely and respectfully were significantly associated factors.

The result in this study (87.1%) is in line with the finding from Guragea 83.5% [23]. The possible reason for the similarity could be due to the similarity in the study subjects and the similarity of socio-demographic and culture of the study subjects in both studies. But the finding is higher than the findings from Mexico 24%, Tanzania (20%), in Tigray (40.6%), in Oromia and Amhara region (79.6%), Jimma (76.3%), and Adis Ababa (60.5%) [25-30]. The possible reason for the discrepancy might be due to the variation in the sample size, study subjects, sampling methods, and sociocultural and demographic background of the study subjects.

In this study, about 69.1% reported that they were treated with politeness and respect. This is similar to studies in Mexico (83%), and Guragea (93.5%) [23, 26]. About 92.3% of participants in this study reported that they received the contraceptive method which they want in their interest and were counseled about the family planning services at the time of discharge. This is supported with findings done in Oromia

and Amhara region in which 53.4% left the health facility by concealing about family planning and 44% received appropriate information and returned with different contraception methods [29]. This is also supported by a study in Guragea in which about 56.5% and in Tigray about 48% of participants were received accurate information and post-abortion family planning [23, 28].

This study tried to assess associate factors. Unwanted pregnancies were 1.8 times more likely satisfied compared with wanted pregnancies. The possible reason might be the pregnancy is not wanted there may be other problems like the pregnancy may be due to sexual violence. Whatever the case terminating the pregnancy may make them happy for those unwanted pregnancies this could increase their satisfaction.

Those participants reported that the health care provider who treated them politely and respected manner were 6.3 times more satisfied compared to the counterparts. This is consistent with the study done in Mexico [26]. The possible explanation might be in health psychological treatment plays a major role in client-provider interaction. This might increase the satisfaction of the clients.

Those whose women had a history of abortion two and above times were 2.1 times more satisfied than those who had no history of abortion. This is consistent with the study done in Jimma [30]. The possible reason for this might be due to those who had history had exposed to the abortion process, whereas those who had not history were everything become new for them.

Participants who were assisted by physicians were 3.9 times more satisfied with the quality of PAC service compared to those who were assisted by other health care providers. This is supported by the study done in Mexico, and America [26, 31]. The possible explanation for this might be due to the community's perception of the doctors. Even though an abortion can be done by any trained health care provider some communities may give high priority to the physicians than other health care providers.

Participants who reported the health care provider address all information were 5.1 times more satisfied compared to those who reported provider did not address all information. This is supported by a study done in Mexico [26]. The reason might be due to those who received the whole information they need may not have complained and clearly understand which may increase the satisfaction.

Those who reported providers were listened to and addressed the information were 6.3 times more satisfied as compared to those who report they did not address the information. This is consistent with the study done in America and Jimma [30, 31]. The reason might be due to if the health care provider says well come in a respected and treated manner they believe him/her and provide the necessary information without hiding. If the interaction between the health care provider and the client is good it may increase their satisfaction.

Limitations

There might be social desirability bias and the sampling

method was a consecutive method which is a non-probability sampling technique that is not generalizable for the whole population.

5. Conclusion

Overall, about 87.1% of the participants were satisfied with the quality of PAC services in this study. The majority of the participants were satisfied with the quality of PAC services. Being unwanted pregnancy, history of abortion, assisted by a physician, being treated politely and respectfully, and the provider listens and addresses all information were significantly associated factors. Enhancing client centered care in the facility, strengthening awareness of family planning services, and addressing the questions of the clients in a respected manner in all health facility by all health care providers are important measures that increase client satisfaction.

Abbreviations

COC: Combined oral contraceptive
CPR: Contraceptive prevalence rate
FP: Family Planning
IUCD: Intrauterine contraceptive method
MVA: Manual Vacuum aspiration
PAC: Post abortion care
SSA: sub-Saharan Africa
WHO: World Health Organization

Data Sharing Statement

The data used for the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Ethical Approval

Ethical clearance was secured from Metu University Institutional Health Research Ethics Review Committee (IHRERC) and official permission was obtained from Gambella Health Bureau and each public hospital. Voluntary, written, informed, and signed were obtained from each study participant.

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Author Contributions

Both authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; agreed to submit to the current journal; gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in this work.

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