

Limits and Perspectives for the Assessment of Anxiety and Fear of COVID-19 in Pregnant Women [Response To Letter]

Francisco Javier Muñoz-Vela^{1,2}, Francisco Javier Fernández-Carrasco³, Juan Gómez-Salgado^{4,5}, Regina Allande-Cussó⁶, Isabel Margarida Marques Monteiro Dias Mendes⁷, Emilia Isabel Martins Teixeira-da-Costa^{8,9}, Juana María Vázquez-Lara³, Javier Fagundo-Rivera¹⁰, Luciano Rodríguez-Díaz³

¹Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malaga, Malaga, Spain; ²Obstetrics and Gynecology Area, Hospital Regional Universitario de Malaga, Málaga, Spain; ³Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Ceuta University Hospital, Midwifery Teaching Unit of Ceuta, Spain, University of Granada, Ceuta, Spain; ⁴Department of Sociology, Social Work and Public Health, Faculty of Labour Sciences, University of Huelva, Huelva, Spain; ⁵Safety and Health Postgraduate Programme, Universidad Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador; ⁶Department of Nursing, University of Seville, Seville, Spain; ⁷Unidade Científico-Pedagógica de Enfermagem de Saúde Materna, Obstétrica e Ginecológica, UICISA: E. Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal; ⁸Nursing Department, Health School, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal; ⁹Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing, Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal; ¹⁰Centro Universitario de Enfermería Cruz Roja, Sevilla, Spain

Correspondence: Juan Gómez-Salgado, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Public Health, Faculty of Labour Sciences, University of Huelva, Avda. Tres de Marzo, S/N, Huelva, 21007, Spain, Tel +34 959219700, Email salgado@uhu.es

Dear editor

The authors would like to express sincere gratitude for the thoughtful and constructive feedback provided in this letter regarding the manuscript titled “Assessment of Levels of Anxiety and Fear of Covid-19 in a Population of Pregnant Women in Spain”.

First of all, the assessments of the strengths and contributions of our research are welcomed; following this, the comments and suggestions have been thankfully received by the authors. The importance of highlighting these limitations and opportunities for improvement is appreciated as, perhaps, these were not firmly underlined in the article. This study is the result of a series of academic research^{1,2} whose main aim was to improve the quality of life of pregnant women. Given this, all comments are greeted and will surely influence further investigations.

Consequently, it is true that online survey administration eliminates the need for direct supervision, thus fostering honesty and freedom of response among the subjects in our sample.

In the same vein, collecting data only in certain locations in Spain could affect the generalisability of the data. It is recognised the importance of obtaining a more comprehensive understanding of the variables studied in diverse geographical regions in Spain.

The absence of the cultural variable as a mediator in our study is indeed a reasonable limitation, and it may have a potential impact on the interpretation of cultural constraints related to vaccine apprehension in certain nations. So, it is agreed that future research should incorporate the analysis of variables related to the cultural and religious context and should also incorporate mixed research methods that allow in-depth interviews³ with the sample in order to strengthen⁴ data collection on a topic as intricate as pregnant women’s mental health.

In conclusion, this study undeniably provides valuable information that is relevant for clinical practice, intervention development, and evaluation of emotional symptoms in pregnant women. The identified limitations will serve as guides for future research in this same field of study. By adhering to recommended research and sampling strategies, upcoming studies can be built, allowing for improved robustness and applicability of the findings.



Funding

This Communication Has Not Received Any Public or Private Funding.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

References

1. Muñoz-Vela FJ, Rodríguez-Díaz L, Gómez-Salgado J, et al. Fear and anxiety in pregnant women during the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review. *Int J Public Health*. 2023;68:1605587. doi:10.3389/ijph.2023.1605587
2. Muñoz-Vela FJ, Rodríguez-Díaz L, Fernández-Carrasco FJ, et al. Adaptation and psychometric study of the scale for the measurement of fear and anxiety of COVID-19 disease in pregnant women (AMICO_Pregnant). *Front Public Health*. 2023;11:1225822. doi:10.3389/fpubh.2023.1225822
3. Parray AA, Hossain MR, Sultana R, Aktar B, Rashid SF. “Younger women had more access to COVID-19 information”: an intersectional analysis of factors influencing women and girls’ access to COVID-19 information in Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh. *PLOS Glob Public Health*. 2022;2(12):e0000459. doi:10.1371/journal.pgph.0000459
4. Thongsomboon W, Kaewkiattikun K, Kerdcharoen N. Perceived stress and associated factors among pregnant women attending antenatal care in Urban Thailand. *Psychol Res Behav Manag*. 2020;13:1115–1122.

Dove Medical Press encourages responsible, free and frank academic debate. The content of the Psychology Research and Behavior Management ‘letters to the editor’ section does not necessarily represent the views of Dove Medical Press, its officers, agents, employees, related entities or the Psychology Research and Behavior Management editors. While all reasonable steps have been taken to confirm the content of each letter, Dove Medical Press accepts no liability in respect of the content of any letter, nor is it responsible for the content and accuracy of any letter to the editor.

Psychology Research and Behavior Management

Dovepress

Publish your work in this journal

Psychology Research and Behavior Management is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal focusing on the science of psychology and its application in behavior management to develop improved outcomes in the clinical, educational, sports and business arenas. Specific topics covered in the journal include: Neuroscience, memory and decision making; Behavior modification and management; Clinical applications; Business and sports performance management; Social and developmental studies; Animal studies. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/psychology-research-and-behavior-management-journal>

<https://doi.org/10.2147/PRBM.S453779>