Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Features and Risk factors for Severe and Critical Pregnant Women with 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Infection in China

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Reviewer: Scott Dessain

Reviewer's report:

This paper is a comprehensive survey of clinical features of pregnant women hospitalized in China and deemed to have severe disease during the 2009 pandemic H1N1 epidemic. The study is a retrospective chart review.

The study is overall a well-done description of the patients that makes interesting clinical observations and contributes to the literature about 2009 H1N1.

The data on steroid usage correlating with worse outcomes is interesting, but data could not be collected on the clinical condition prior to steroid administration, so a potential causative effect could not be supported.

The manuscript could be re-formatted. Much of the discussion section is devoted to reporting statistics that would be better described in the results section. Information that is repeated in the discussion section should be done so only to prepare the reader for the authors' interpretation of the results. The discussion could be trimmed to be more focused on the main points of the article.

It is not clear what is the authors' position on non-invasive ventilation for pregnant patients with H1N1. This is an important issue. It appears that the method was successful for women without specific risk factors; the authors should expand on their statement, “NIV may be useful in selected women with isolated acute respiratory failure”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.