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

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Discretionary revisions:

Minor grammar points should be corrected in editing: use of the verbs was/were and occasional commas.

Page 4: This sentence is lacks a verb and the word “succeeded” is misspelled: Among 186 patients who received mechanical ventilation, 83 patients with non-invasive ventilaton (NIV) and 38 successed.

Overall the writing is clearer and the paper makes more sense.

In the discussion, the new text on the unexpectedly low rate of underlying illness could be better focused. Instead of the conclusion that “These findings suggest that environmental factors influence asthma prevalence”, it might be more accurate to say that “These results suggest that the lower prevalence of pre-existing asthma in our sample reflects prevalence of the disease in the Chinese population”.

I am not sure about the conclusion: “Another reason for the low prevalence of underlying diseases among pregnant is that 73% of our patients came from rural area or those who were unemployed. The poor living conditions made them less likely to have health checkup before pregnancy.” It seems likely that underlying conditions would have been identified during the hospital admission, so that the hypothesis of a lack of detection prior to admission was an explanation for an underlying comorbid illness is hard to support. Perhaps these sentences could simply be deleted.

The sentence: “Risk analysis showed that BMI, and a PaO2/FiO2 # 200 were risk factors for maternal death” should be modified to indicate the at risk BMI and note that the value was measured on admission (i.e. >30).

In the conclusions, the authors state: “septic shock was one of the contraindications”, when they actually probably mean that “septic shock should be considered a contraindication”

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 have no competing interests to disclose.