Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidural analgesia and Cesarean delivery in multiple sclerosis: the Italian cohort study

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Reviewer: Yara D Fragoso

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Epidural analgesia and cesarean delivery in multiple sclerosis: the Italian cohort study

This is an interesting study, but I have some major considerations about the paper.

First of all, it is not clear to me whether the authors really expected to find different rates of clinical relapses or disease progression according to the type of delivery. Why would the hypothesis be that women with cesarean delivery and/or epidural analgesia should have a different outcome? The study did not find any differences in the outcome, but I consider that this was completely expected.

Second, the paper discusses a lot of data regarding MS and pregnancy that should not really be the subject of this paper. This Italian group has already presented several very good studies on the subject and this one does not add to the present knowledge on the matter. Post-partum relapse rate was correlated to worse disease progression – this is an important finding, but has nothing to do with the method of delivery or the analgesia.

I think the few previous papers that created some doubts of the safety of delivery methods for patients with MS really needed to be reviewed and a new study should be carried out. However, the data collected here should only be used as a Letter to the Editor or, at the most, as a Brief Report. The present study does not qualify for a full paper in the journal as it does not bring any new information and just confirms what is perfectly expected to happen. I would suggest that the authors might write a much shorter version of this study, really focusing on the delivery method and the analgesia, and then submit it as a Letter to the Editor or, at the most, as a Brief Report.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'