Reviewer's report

Title: Physical activity in pregnancy: a qualitative study of the beliefs of overweight and obese pregnant women

Version: 1 Date: 10 December 2009

Reviewer: Avi Harlev

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This study, investigating the important field of views and attitudes of overweight and obese pregnant women and to inform interventions which could promote the adoption of physical activity during pregnancy. The study is as the result of Semi-structured, in-depth interviews.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The sample size of 14 women, sub divided into nulliparas compared to multiparas and overweight compared to obese. The comparison of the groups right but the sample size is too small for making accurate conclusions.

2. The study data was derived from women attending one maternity unit who were already participating in a study focusing on physical activity in pregnancy. Thus, despite the two researchers deriving a thematic framework from the data, the ability to conclude from the interviews is limited - Major Compulsory Revisions.

3. No solid criteria were compared regarding the physical activity or the diet were noted as compared. Hence, the comparison between the interview woman is not quantitative and weakening the conclusions - Major Compulsory Revisions.

4. Noting the advised activity for every trimester in the introduction - Discretionary Revisions.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'