Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Complications of childbirth and maternal deaths in Kinshasa hospitals: testimonies from women and their families

**Authors:**

Eugénie Kabali (eugekab@yahoo.fr)
Catherine Gourbin (catherine.gourbin@uclouvain.be)
Vincent DeBrouwere (vdbrouw@itg.be)

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
To Natasha Mellins-Cohen  
BMC-series Journals  
BioMed Central  

Dear Ms Mellins-Cohen,

Your comments and suggestions were very clear and I made the required changes in the text.

Page numbers: inserted  
Cross references hyperlinks (Table/figure that became “error! Reference source not found”) replaced with plain text.  
Methods: First paragraph moved and put just before the two sentences about ethics.  
Footnote erased  
Page 6: sentence that started with 85% was changed into “A proportion of 85%...”  
Discussion: page 8, I added a sentence summarising the built-in limitation of verbal autopsy and of self-reported morbidity (with 4 references including Butler). I continued with a comment stating that it is however acceptable to use verbal autopsy to identify areas of improvement (from chapter 4 in ‘Beyond the number’).  
References in French were cited as such followed by an English translation  

Two versions were uploaded, one with the ‘tracked changes’ and one with changes accepted.

Sincerely yours  

Vincent De Brouwere