Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal near-miss in a rural hospital in Eastern Sudan

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2011

Reviewer: Jeroen van Dillen

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Sir, dear authors

The changes made have substantially improved the manuscript and I feel it is now almost ready for publication. In general it is much better written!

Some minor details:
- Background: recent report from Hogan in the Lancet 2010 mentions MMR of 320/100,000
- Setting: 44.0491 -> 440.491?
- You never elaborate on the weakness of retrospective method of data collection with respect to the quality of those record, the availability of all records, the coding of diagnosing and the correctness of diagnosis etc. (it must have been a tremendous effort!)
- Results: gestational age in near miss cases is significantly higher compared to!!!!
- I would suggest changing the last sentence stating: For future studies, prospective collection of data using clear definition of near miss and including audit of the care given is advised. By doing so and introducing the audit cycle, the quality of maternal care can be improved.
- References 12; Eur in stead of EUR
- Table 2: maternal death in stead of dead women...

I wish you all the best with the final changes of the manuscript.

Kind Regards

Jeroen van Dillen

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'