Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal obesity and postpartum haemorrhage after vaginal and caesarean delivery among nulliparous women at term: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 4 September 2012

Reviewer: Sohinee S Bhattacharya

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
Nil

Minor essential revisions:
1. Please mention total number of women in each BMI category in the abstract. If word limit is a problem, the total n=11,363 can be omitted.
2. The authors conclude that PPH in overweight and obese women following vaginal delivery is due to uterine atony and recommend active management of third stage. However, they also mention that active management of third stage is the norm in their hospital, which implies that PPH occurred despite active management. Please clarify/amend.
3. Using the same cut off value of 1000ml blood loss for both vaginal and caesarean delivery should be justified with reference. Many more caesarean deliveries would be expected to lose 1000 ml of blood than vaginal deliveries.
4. BMI measured at booking visit is used as proxy for pre-pregnancy BMI. This can be justified provided all women booked before 16 weeks. It would be good to present the distribution of weeks of first ANC visit by BMI status.
5. Please discuss whether the tertiary nature of the setting is likely to have introduced bias in the study.
6. As I understand this retrospective cohort study used maternal overweight and obesity as exposure variables - how then, can BMI be a confounder in multivariable analyses?
7. It is not true that the association of APH with PPH is a novel finding (Harley et al, 2008. Idiopathic bleeding during the second half of pregnancy as a risk factor for adverse perinatal outcome. J Mat Fetal Neonatal Medicine 21: 331-335.)
8. The authors say that one of the strengths of their study was the ability to adjust for many risk factors for PPH. For a variable to be a confounder, it needs to be associated with both exposure and outcome. Did the authors test for this?

Discretionary revisions
1. Please change N to n in various places throughout the document.
2. Please present the increase in PPH risk with unit increase in BMI as this is
more relevant to the current analysis than birthweight.

**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.