Reviewer's report

Title: Sublingual misoprostol versus standard surgical care for treatment of incomplete abortion in five sub-Saharan African countries

Version: 1 Date: 9 September 2012

Reviewer: Christian Fiala

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Journal: BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

The following Minor Essential Revisions are given:

The topic of the study is important, the study is well done and confirms what has been shown previously. Misoprostol is still largely underused for this indication although there is sufficient evidence to support its use and even a WHO recommendation in the WHO model list of essential medicines. Studies will help to overcome this.

The main problem with the present publication is to see, what this study adds to what is already known? The authors explain that a lower dose of misoprostol (400mcg) should be evaluated, compared to the standard dose of 600mcg. Unfortunately the present study does not compare these two doses.

(Page 6, ‘Background’) The authors may explain in more detail what ‘additional evidence’ the present study provides compared to the already existing evidence. Especially compared to their reference 8 and other publications on this topic not listed among references.

Page 13, The authors mention in Discussion “This study confirms that ultrasound is not necessary for outcome assessment when treating incomplete abortion with misoprostol.” – however no detailed results are given on this aspect in the result section. Furthermore this study has not been designed to evaluate the usefulness of ultrasound. The conclusion that “The majority of misoprostol cases were successfully evaluated without the use of ultrasound.” can not replace a proper study and a clear and detailed result on this issue. Consequently this aspect should be deleted from the chapter Discussion.

Furthermore any conclusion on this aspect would need to be limited to the setting of this study.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'