Reviewer's report

Title: Professionals’ views of fetal monitoring during labour: A systematic review and thematic analysis

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Reviewer: Joerg Kessler

Reviewer's report:

This is a thoroughly prepared manuscript which reviews the professionals attitude on fetal monitoring. It provides an interesting synthesis of qualitative and quantitative studies.

I miss one important aspect in the description of the studies in table 1. What was the frequency of EFM and IA in the respective studies? The authors could easily add a column to this table which gives some key information on the obstetric units involved (N deliveries, C-section rate).

The second point which could be discussed more in detail is potential role of differentiating type of surveillance according to perceived risk.

A third point which may be discussed is how to deal with the issue of reassurance/safety. The development of Doppler devices of auscultation which are able to store the auscultated heart rate together with the current date and time could at provide a better quality of documentation.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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