Reviewer's report

Title: Limiting the Caesarean Section rate in low risk pregnancies is key to lower the tide of abdominal deliveries: an observational study

Version: 1 Date: 28 March 2011

Reviewer: OFFER EREZ

Reviewer's report:

The paper by Delbeare et al is an interesting effort to study the changes in their cesarean section rate over the first decade of the 21st century. However, I think the authors are not using the appropriate approach for such a study. They have at hand a database that includes the information of about 20 years of deliveries in their region. This is a valuable source of information that may help understanding the natures of changes over time. In spite of that the authors have chosen to include only two years (2000 and 2008). This is not enough; I would suggest the authors to perform a longitudinal study in which they can test the changes in the main contributors to cesarean section rate over time rather than just in two check points.

I would suggest the authors to follow the changes over-time in the rate of cesarean section due to maternal request. The changes in maternal obesity rate and its association with the increase rate of failure of induction of labor, especially among nulliparous patients. Moreover, the changes in the rate of pregnancies conceived by assisted reproduction, does it has an impact on the rate of elective cesarean deliveries? These effect may not be visible when only two data points are inspected, however, a longitudinal study of these changes may reveal their effect and whether there is an interaction between the different findings presented in this manuscript.

In light of the above mentioned comments this manuscript in its current cannot be accepted for publication.

The English needs editing

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'