Reviewer’s report

Title: Amniotic fluid embolism incidence, risk factors and outcomes: a review and recommendations

Version: 1 Date: 30 August 2011

Reviewer: Edi Vaisbuch

Reviewer’s report:

Summary
This study is a collaborative effort to define the incidence, risk factors and outcomes of amniotic fluid embolism using population-based regional or national data from five high resource countries – Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States. The authors report an incidence of amniotic fluid embolism from 1.9/100,000 cases (UK) to 6.1/100,000 (Australia) with the lowest estimated incidence rates were validated case identification existed. Case fatality rates ranged from 11 to 43%. Older maternal age and induction of labour were the only factors consistently associated with amniotic AFE. The authors present key recommendations for future studies on amniotic fluid embolism and encourage the development of an agreed case definition and an agreed set of criteria among countries to minimize inclusion of false positive cases for database studies.

General comments
I read this study with great interest. It is an interesting, clear, thoughtful and very well written study. The results are clearly presented and the discussion is well organized. I have only a few small suggestions:

Specific comments:
1. Was the definition used in each country for maternal death the same as that used by the WHO (death within 42 days of termination of pregnancy)? I am not sure if all readers are aware of the exact definition, thus I would suggest adding to the methods the definition used. (Discretionary Revision)
2. In Table 5 please add to the table footnote what RR and aOR represent. (Discretionary Revision)

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