Author's response to reviews

Title: A prospective study of effects of psychological factors and sleep on obstetrical interventions, mode of birth, and neonatal outcomes among low-risk British Columbian women

Authors:

Wendy A Hall (Wendy.hall@nursing.ubc.ca)
Kathrin Stoll (kathrin.stoll.73@gmail.com)
Eileen K Hutton (huttone@mcmaster.ca)
Helen Brown (Helen.brown@nursing.ubc.ca)

Version: 3 Date: 13 July 2011

Author's response to reviews:

Dr. Cecily Begley
Associate Editor
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
Trinity College School of Nursing and Midwifery
D'Olier Street
Dublin

July 10, 2011

Re: A Prospective Study of Effects of Psychological Factors and Sleep on Obstetric Interventions, Mode of Birth, and Neonatal Outcomes among Low-risk British Columbian Women

Dear Dr. Begley,

I am writing this cover letter to describe the contribution of the paper referred to above to your journal: BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. This paper describes a prospective study of the effects of sleep deprivation, fatigue, anxiety, and childbirth fear on the obstetric interventions, modes of birth, and neonatal outcomes for a convenience sample of British Columbian women. Rather than self-report of birth interventions, modes of birth, and neonatal outcomes, we accessed data from the Perinatal Services of British Columbia. The data is collected for all registered births in the province. To our knowledge, this is the only Canadian study that has undertaken this examination. Our data add to the literature in this field by providing insight about relationships among a variables that have been examined independently in studies in the literature, for example childbirth fear, fatigue, and sleep deprivation but have never been examined collectively in one study. As we state in the paper, it is important to control for influences of other such variables when making claims about relationships and to examine women's intent to request caesarean section.
We have specifically chosen to submit our paper to your journal because of its highly regarded reputation in the field of pregnancy and childbirth. If we are going to develop interventions to bring the proportions of births by caesarean section into the WHO recommendations, it is important to understand contributions of a variety of psychological states and sleep to birth interventions and outcomes and their differing effects for nulliparous and multiparous women. We think therefore that our paper will be of interest to the general readership of your journal.

All authors have contributed to the design and conduct of the study and to the writing of the paper and as such all merit authorship. All authors have seen and agreed the final version of the paper. We have submitted this paper only to your journal and we have no conflicts of interest to declare. We thank your for your kind attention to this matter.

Due to difficult uploading the components of the document initially, I have gone through a resubmission. I have incorporated that information in this letter, and ensured that the additional tables are in landscape format; beyond that, I have made no other changes to the documents.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Dr. Wendy Hall