Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 9 January 2012

Reviewer: Linda Kvist

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the revised version of this paper. The manuscript has been considerably improved and my comments have in the main been addressed. Minor essential revisions

1. The language has been improved but there are still some idiosyncrasies which at times make understanding difficult. To give an example:

"We examined prospectively associations among women's psychological states (anxiety, childbirth fear), fatigue and sleep deprivation, maternal characteristics, and obstetrical interventions and adverse neonatal outcomes....."

When examining associations it is usually "between" different variables rather than "among". Also, it isn't clear to the reader which variables are being examined for associations with each other since there are several "and" in the sentence. The best way to remedy problems of this kind is to re-structure the sentence(s). There are several places in the manuscript where improvements could be made.

2. The first sentence under the heading "Previous work" needs attention. It is unclear what "those variables" applies to. The word "a" is missing before "sample".

3. Under "Discussion" you write that "Our finding that high fear of birth was not significantly associated with a request for a caesarean section is refuted by literature that examines Scandinavian women's childbirth fear and preference for caesarean section". Please discuss what the reasons for this difference might be.

4. You report very high Cronbach's alpha scores. Please discuss in the discussion section how this can be interpreted and what it might mean for your study.

5. Suggestions for HOW clinicians might provide multiparous women with opportunities to describe their birth experiences and to process events would increase the value of your paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

**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.