Reviewer's report

Title: Struggling with daily life and enduring pain: A qualitative study of women's experiences with pelvic girdle pain during pregnancy

Version: 2  Date: 21 December 2012

Reviewer: Eva Haukeland Fredriksen

Reviewer's report:

The paper is well written, and the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting. The data are presented by relevant quotes. The discussion is balanced, and links to relevant literature and to relevant theoretical concepts. My main concerns are related to the methodology.

Discretionary Revisions
None.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Some words are missing here and there (see Discussion: paragraph 2 and paragraph 9)

2. According to the background section, PGP seems to be a well-defined condition with clear terminology and incidence. But this is not the case. PGP is a condition without clear criteria for the diagnosis, which leads to an inconsistency in reported incidence. Information of this should be included to the paper.

3. The authors discuss the interviewees' strategies of revealing/ hiding their health problems (Discussion, major findings: paragraph 6), and state that expectations, norms and values set by society are important. Which are these social norms and expectations? It would be interesting to know more about this.

4. There are a number of factors that can influence informants' experiences, such as employment status, educational and socioeconomic status. Can you discuss these?

5. The authors state that all the interviewees were diagnosed, and that PGP was confirmed. Since there is little agreement about this diagnosis, it could be interesting to know which diagnostic criteria the researchers applied here.

6. Could you clarify the relationship between what appear to be two different statements? In the discussion (Major findings: paragraph 1) it is stated that all the women knew that they had to endure the pain since no cure exists, but in the Methodological considerations (paragraph 3), it is stated that all informants were applying for medical help. Women in Norway who suffer from PGP are often referred to physiotherapy, chiropractor, or acupuncture, and they are offered treatment that may reduce their pain and help them to cope with the situation. Is the situation different in Sweden?
Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Present why GT was chosen as an appropriate methodological approach for the study:
   a. GT is commonly used to understand actions, from the perspectives of those involved. This study explores how pregnant women experience PGP, and I would like to know why the authors have preferred a GT methodology instead of a phenomenological approach?
   b. What version of GT was used in this study – and why? Do the authors view their findings as emergent from the data unaffected by the researchers? (see page 12, second paragraph: What does it mean to discuss the data in a “true manner”?)

2. Inform the readers about which themes you included in the thematic guide.
   a. Which experiences did you ask for in the first sampling process?
   b. How did you adapt the thematic guide for the theoretical sampling (the second sample)?

3. The limitations of the work, in terms of the small sample sizes, need to be further explained.

4. Describe the grounded theory that was developed in this study.
   a. What does the study explain? It is stated in the Methods section (analysis) that the authors aim to develop an explanatory model. But such a model is not presented explicitly in the paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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.