Reviewer's report

Title: Single dose of gentamicin in combination with metronidazole versus multiple doses for prevention of post-caesarean infection at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania: A Randomized, equivalence, controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 31 January 2013

Reviewer: Baafuor Opoku

Reviewer's report:

1. The question posed by the article is well defined
2. The methodology is problematic:
   a. Why the three days used to assess surgical wound infection, namely postop day 3, day 7 and day 30 were chosen is not answered in the methodology
   b. Using fever and endometritis as features of surgical site infection is not acceptable
   c. ‘serous discharge’ is written as ‘serious discharge’ in the methodology
   d. After occlusive dressing is removed 48 hours after surgery, the patient is discharged on day 3. No mention is made whether the dressing is re-applied before discharge or the wound is left open
   e. The results are not indicative of when the infection was diagnosed or ruled out, day 3 or day 7; or was it cumulative. Since the patients were in the house after day 3, was tampering with the wound taken into account before diagnosis or rule out of wound infection?
   f. I wonder how examining the surgical site after 30 days could assist in defining wound infection so as to merit its mentioning in the methodology
   g. The study is silent on what was done for patients who developed surgical wound infection
   h. What is the essence of body mass index (BMI) at term?
3. A higher incidence of wound infection is found in the arm that received repeated doses of antibiotics. There is no attempt to explain this finding which is contrary to basic principles of antibiotic therapy
4. The authors need to answer the above questions and rewrite the entire document.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.