Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of Maternal Quality of Life on Preterm Birth and Low Birthweight: A Longitudinal Study

Version: 3 Date: 29 March 2013

Reviewer: Antje Petersen

Reviewer’s report:

The authors answered every point very kindly and made the suggested changes except for the two following points.

This is a study result that was not presented in the results section and should be previously mentioned there.

Discussion, Maternal General Health: “Using a score of 50 as the cutoff point (DUKE scale score ranges 0-100) for poor/fair general health or good/excellent general health, the rate of poor/fair general health was 15.5%, 20.1%, 26.9%, and 21.0% at T1, T2, T3, and T4, respectively.”

Because of this inconsistency, we conducted a further analysis and found that 40% (n = 2 out of 5) of pregnant women who had a low mental health score (scored 0–25) at T3 gave birth prematurely. Additionally, the rate of women who gave birth prematurely was 4.2% (n = 2 out of 48) for those who had median low score (scored 25.1–50), 6.8% (n = 4 out of 59) for those who had a median high score (scored 50.1–75), and 10.6% (n = 9 out of 83) for those who had a high score (scored 75.1–100), and the rate was significantly different by groups (X2 = 9.86, p = .02). These results showed that, in fact, the pregnant women who had a very low score on mental health (score lower than 25) had a higher risk of giving birth prematurely than did women who had higher scores (score higher than 25).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.