Reviewer’s report

Title: The effects of Unwanted Pregnancy and Social Support on Depressive Symptoms in Pregnancy: Evidence from a Prospective Cohort study in Southwestern Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 17 January 2013

Reviewer: Alexandre Faisal-Cury

Reviewer’s report:

In order to improve this task I would like to highlight the following critiques and suggestions

Abstract
This is a cross-sectional data from a cohort study

Introduction
Last paragraph
1. There are studies in developing countries on the association not planning pregnancy and depression during pregnancy (Faisal-Cury et al. Arch Womens Ment Health (2009) 12:335–343) and during the postpartum period (Faisal-Cury et al. Arch Arch Womens Ment Health (2004) 7:123–131). In both situations there was no association between these variables

2. The authors state that women receive less support from their partners during pregnancy is based on research data? If so they should mention the reference.

Methods
Second paragraph
1. The results are derived from cross sectional data analysis (not from the cohort study)

2. How many pregnant women were included and how many refused to participate until the final composition of the sample?

3. How many pregnant women are usually seen in these clinics per month (or year)?

Measurements
Fourth paragraph
1. How were the variables: Perceived work burden and Intimate Violence Partner?

2. It was unclear how the variable “household food insecurity” was assessed. I
would suggest to clarify this phrase

Results
First paragraph
1.59% of the women wanted pregnancy and only 13% did not plan. This is an unexpected result according to the literature developed countries. To cite an example, Brazilian studies suggest that over 50% of pregnancies are unplanned.

Second paragraph
1. How was defined and rated "previous experience of pregnancy complication" (not described in the methods section)?

Discussion
Third paragraph
1. Only 3% of women suffered physical violence. This data in the context of poverty is unusual. Research in developed countries have validated this statement (see for example: Ludermir AB, Lewis G, Valongueiro SA, de Araújo TV, Araya R. Violence against women by their intimate partner during pregnancy and postnatal depression: a prospective cohort study. Lancet. 2010;376(9744):903-10; Faisal-Cury A, Menezes PR, d'Oliveira AF, Schraiber LB, Lopes CS. Temporal Relationship Between Intimate Partner Violence and Postpartum Depression in a Sample of Low Income Women. Matern Child Health J. 2012)

Conclusion
1. The study found no association between depression and Intimate Partner Violence. Therefore it should not be included in this paragraph

Final suggestions
The article does not have a specific item for discussion of its limitations. I would suggest to do that discussing the 3 points below:
1. The inability to establish causal relationships due the type of study (cross-sectional)
2. The instruments used to define and evaluate some variables (for example: IPV)
3. The possibility of recall bias to explain the association between “not planning the pregnancy” and “depression during pregnancy”

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 do declare that I have no competing interests