Reviewer’s report

Title: International Migration and Caesarean Birth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Version: 1 Date: 22 November 2012

Reviewer: Anne-Frederique Minsart

Reviewer’s report:

First review concentrating on this specific topic
Comprehensive study including all hypotheses regarding risk factors and adjusted analyses

Methods
page 5 "studies must have examined migrants who crossed international borders..." I think it should mention that all included studies did not have the same methodology, as maternal origin, country of birth and citizenship may not cover exactly the same reality.

Mechanisms/indications
North African: As mentionned in the results section, north african immigrants have various results except for emergency CS. The discussion thereafter should focus on emergency CS when giving hypotheses, or discuss why it is not consistent across studies, or maybe they have more emergency CS because they undergo less elective CS

Discussion
"gestational diabetes and feto-pelvic disproportion .... are more common in migrant women" I think it is a shortcut as gestational diabetes is more common in many studies but not all of them, and not in every subgroup of immigrants. In brief it is correct but I would be more cautious when giving this explanation.

End of discussion section
« Finally, confirmation and further understanding of social support.... Appear to be more common among migrants »

I would insert this paragraph earlier, before « research to establish evidence for risk factors ...» , following other hypotheses.

As you said, emphasis should be made on differences in caesarean indications/mechanisms as the rate could be greater or lower but the question is if it can be considered appropriate taking into consideration all the causal and also outcome factors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests