Reviewer’s report

Title: Fear for external cephalic version and depression: predictors of successful external cephalic version for breech presentation at term?

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2013

Reviewer: Marlies Rijnders

Reviewer’s report:

This article addresses an interesting and so far unknown issue in obstetric healthcare namely whether a woman's fear has any effect on the success of External Cephalic Version.

Minor Essential Revisions

Method section: it remains unclear how abdominal muscle tone and uterine tone is measured. This should be described as abdominal muscle tone is interpreted by the researcher as an important factor in the pathway fear-success of ECV.

Discretionary Revisions

Although the study is carried out properly it is a bit disappointing that the researchers only looked at fear in a unidimensional way, and did not distinguish between women's fear for pain, adverse outcome for the baby or herself, effect of ECV on mode of birth etc. Different causes of fear are brought forward by women as possible barriers to undergo an ECV (Rosman et al Midwifery 2013). It is arguable that the cause for fear of an ECV might have a different effect on a woman's willingness to accept ECV and ability to relax during the procedure. This is another limitation in the study that can be mentioned in the discussion section. Thus, although this study shows no relation between a woman's fear and success rate of ECV I do hope the researcher will continue to study psychological factors related to the uptake and success of ECV on a more extended level.

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'