Reviewer’s report

Title: Obstetric analgesia in contemporary obstetrics: a survey of the practice of obstetricians in Nigeria

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2013

Reviewer: Babatunde Adedokun

Reviewer’s report:

Thanks for asking me to review the manuscript titled ‘Obstetric analgesia in contemporary obstetrics: a survey of the practice of obstetricians in Nigeria. This paper addresses an important issue in obstetric care among sub-Saharan women. The findings from the study are important in efforts to changing pain relief methods in labour in Nigeria. However the manuscript still needs some revision.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction
1. The authors should provide data on what is known about the demand for obstetric analgesia among Nigerian women, and state whether there are differences in this demand, if any by geopolitical zone.
2. Are there any guidelines currently in place recommended by a Nigerian association such as the SOGIN concerning pain management in labour?
3. The introduction will benefit from any previous study among clinicians (obstetricians or otherwise) about pain management in patient care.

Methods
1. More information about the SOGON conference is needed. How old is the organization? What are the criteria for membership? How frequently does the conference hold? Why for instance did we have a preponderance of southeastern obstetricians and gynaecologists from the south east? Is this always the case that the host state/region dictates the composition of obstetricians at the conference?
2. The non-response rate in this study was about 25% which is relatively high. It is important to know the characteristics of these refusals. Were they mainly from the Northern geopolitical zones which could explain the very small number of obstetricians from this region. The implications of the non-response and any significant differences between them and those who filled the questionnaire deserve comments in the discussion.
3. What statistical analysis was used to generate the odds ratio? What informed the choice of the variables included in the analysis model? In particular why were only age and location singled out for association with analgesia use?

Results (and tables)
1. The calculation of percentages that use analgesia based on very small numbers in the northern geopolitical zones is of little or no value and the authors should consider removing Fig 1

2. The age group 60+ was included in Table 1, however there was no respondent in this age group. Please remove that age category

3. The reasons for non-use could have been based on a total of 77 (those who never used) instead of on the overall sample size

4. The variables presented in Table 3 in association with analgesia use should have proportions in each category. The authors only included frequencies

5. As mentioned in the methods section the details of the analysis done in Table 3 should be presented

Discussion

1. Line 15 of the discussion which reads.........'This finding is not encouraging for country' ....needs clarification. What finding is being referred to there?

2. Line 22: ......'Sadly though it is more higher than' .....Please check the statement

3. No comments are made about the association between analgesia use and variables

Limitation

1. Even though the study title states ‘obstetricians in Nigeria’, the study is more of a southern Nigeria study and this restriction as far as generalization of findings is concerned should be stated in the discussion

2. The authors should discuss the main reason for non-use of analgesia: fear of fetal distress

3. The other points worthy of comments I have mentioned in the comments in the methods section

**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.