Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Patricia Lavand'homme

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Review of manuscript submitted to BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth by Lawani and colleagues.

The authors describe the current practice of obstetric analgesia in Nigeria according to a survey performed among obstetricians and gynecologists. They conclude that the routine of obstetric analgesia is still low in Nigeria today because many providers deny parturient’s right to pain relief during childbirth.

The question is well defined and methods reported (survey with a satisfactory response rate).

The authors should state (including in the title) that only vaginal deliveries are considered – we can suppose that cesarean deliveries are usually performed under spinal anesthesia? Or ketamine? Please comment.

Results are clearly presented with odd ratio showing major trends between young and older obstetricians practice as well as trends between rural and non-rural practice so some future changes might be expected.

The geopolitical distribution of the results does not mean much for common readers. If the authors want to maintain this sub-analysis of data, they should clearly explain the differences among the different regions.

The discussion is relevant but the following points should be presented to the reader:

- the majority of deliveries are probably performed by midwives or women with experience; please comment on the cases taken into account by medical doctors including specialists like obstetricians (complicated pregnancies?…. Which percentage?)
- did the authors ask about instrumental versus non instrumental deliveries regarding the use of some analgesia?
- What is the ratio between natural labor and augmented labor (oxytocin administration) in Nigeria? Does it has some influence on the administration of labor analgesia?
- did the authors ask regarding the use of herbal medicine or traditional medicine?
- Which type of opioid is usually administered? Morphine? Pethidine? Ketamine?
- Could the authors provide more comparisons between the practice of obstetric analgesia in Nigeria by comparison with other African countries?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

NO