Reviewer's report

Title: Does induction of labor for constitutionally large-for-gestational-age fetuses identified in utero reduce maternal morbidity? A historical cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 17 January 2014

Reviewer: Bukola Fawole

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The Authors investigated an historical cohort of women obtained from the French database for 233 health facilities between 1994 and 2008 with the goal of determining whether a policy of elective induction of labour between 37 and 39 weeks for women with ultrasound suggestion of large for gestational age (LGA) fetuses (i.e. > 97th centile) would reduce perineal tears. They identified 199 such cases and compared with 2878 controls, also LGA, that were delivered within the same gestational period but without induction of labour. Authors reported that of all cases suspected of LGA, only 26.9% had birthweight > 97th centile.

Major compulsory revisions

Authors need to indicate for 2878 controls, what proportions had spontaneous onset of labour and elective caesarean section.

The controls were reported to have delivered within > 37 and < 38 weeks 6 days, yet Table 1 reports that 25.7% had induction of labour at > 39 weeks. Such cases obviously did not meet eligibility criteria.

The study period was between 1994 and 2008. The skills of the Sonographers/Sonologists must have been variable and this also constitutes a weakness of the study.

Minor essential revisions

On page 6, lines 2 and 3, Authors wrote '.......might reduce onset of perineal tears....'. Did they intend to write incidence?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest