Reviewer’s report

Title: A comparison of maternal and neonatal outcomes between water immersion during labor and conventional labor and delivery

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2013

Reviewer: Bolajoko O. Olusanya

Reviewer’s report:

MAJOR REVISIONS
None

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

Abstract
1. Background: The suggestion that the effects of water immersion during (the first stage of) labor have not been clearly defined seem not to be supported by the systematic review by Cluett & Burns (2009) which established that water immersion during the first stage of labour reduces the use of epidural/spinal analgesia and duration of the first stage of labour while acknowledging limited information for other outcomes related to water use during the first and second stages of labour, due to intervention and outcome variability.

2. Methods: Please clarify what is meant by “transfer of infant to the pediatric unit”. Do you mean “neonatal intensive care unit”? Pediatric unit may have both well-baby nursery and neonatal intensive care unit.

3. Results: Revise the following statement as follows: “The duration of labor and …………… postpartum bleeding were similar ……………”

4. Results: Revise the following statement as follows: “The caesarean section rate was significantly higher in the conventional labor group (…………, p=0.026)”.

5. Please clarify the stated VAS scores? Are these mean values with range? Why not state the mean (SD) since the authors have mentioned under Methods how continuous data will be presented.

6. Conclusions: “Water immersion can significantly alleviate labor pain……”

Methods
1. The results of the survey on maternal satisfaction with water immersion should be moved to the Results section.

2. What specific steps were taken to address some of the commonly reported clinical and practice concerns about water immersion besides maternal and neonatal infections?

3. What calibre of health workers provided water immersion for mother in this hospital? Did they receive any special training?
Results
The reported values of pain scores in Table 2 should be clarified? Are these raw scores or mean scores? Please clarify the values in bracket.

Discussion
Revise “labor and deliver” to “labor and delivery”

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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 interests.