Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Social Support around Pregnancy on Postpartum Depression among Canadian Teen Mothers and Adult Mothers in the Maternity Experiences Survey

Version: 2
Date: 16 December 2013

Reviewer: Simone Vigod

Reviewer’s report:

This is a study using data from the Canadian Maternal Experiences Survey to investigate the effect of social support on postpartum depression risk among teen mothers, with comparison to adult mothers.

Compulsory Revisions:

1. There is a substantial amount of literature in this area already with respect to the impact of social support on postpartum depression. Our group has published 2 MES studies published that include data on this issue (Dennis CJP 2012, Vigod CMAJ 2013), and Kingston et al. have published on teen moms having more social support and being at higher risk of PPD (2012, Pediatrics). The question of whether social support impacts adult and teen mothers differently is novel, however, but I do not think that the analysis done in this paper optimally illustrates the point. I would have preferred to see the teen and adult mothers in the same model (or at least a first model demonstrating an interaction term before stratification) to demonstrate whether or not there is a differential impact of social support on teen vs. adult moms. I don't think that there is from this analysis, but can't really tell, and that is the novel question. Could the analysis be re-run in this way? I think it would make for a more parsimonious conclusion.

2. Of note, I am pretty sure that there is a variable in the MES that refers to previous history of depression. This should be included in any multivariable modelling.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests