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: 3
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Reviewer: Sari Räisänen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the possibility to review the revised version of the study that was aimed to study whether an association between social support and postpartum depression was modified by maternal age.

The current version of the manuscript is much more clear, but I still have some concerns and comments for the authors.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The present study was not an interventional study and thus the authors cannot suggest a causal relationship. Instead they can report an association between social support and postpartum depression. These correction should be done throughout the manuscript and all causal suggestion should be removed. In the discussion for example the authors suggest that smoking and other substance use might increase the risk of postpartum depression, but it might be that adverse health behavior was a way of coping with the stress or depression. There are several previous papers published on that topic.

I suggest that the authors would combine two variables of social support so that there would be different combinations of support during pregnancy and after the birth. Due to this change only one interaction term is needed that might affect the results.

Because the aim was to study interaction between maternal age and social support, some information for the readers is needed. I suggest the authors to add a new table, which would present the prevalence of postpartum depression by social support and maternal age.

I seems that in the multivariable analysis postpartum depression was adjusted for all the variables and not only variables associated the social support and/or postpartum depression (i.e. possible confounders). It seems that young maternal age is associated with several factors such as level of education, marital status and pregnancy related factors such as smoking (table 1), and inclusion of all these variables might be harmful. Exclude non-significant variables from multivariable analysis and consider if all the rest are necessary. Suggest to fit different models.
In the present paper the main finding were that young women are at higher risk of postpartum depression, and social support was associated with a decreased prevalence of postpartum depression regardless of maternal age. This is an important message for the clinicians.

Thank you and good luck with the paper!

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests