Reviewer's report

Title: Misclassification of diagnosis and mistreatment of prolonged labour

Version: 2 Date: 23 February 2014

Reviewer: Susan McDonald

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Major Compulsory Revisions

I am still unclear about the following aspects of your study

1. Page 6 How closely aligned was the women’s self rating of length of labour and the length of labour recorded/reported in the medical history

2. Page 7 What other reasons were cited for augmentation of labour (or use of oxytocin in the absence of prolonged labour. For example prolonged ruptured membranes, spurious labour etc)

3. Pages 7-11. The aim of your outcomes is also still a little unclear to the reader. While it is well documented and perfectly understandable that women who have a prolonged labour, unplanned operative birth express much more negative feelings about their birth experience, unless you can clearly show that for the group of women who did received oxytocin augmentation in the absence of prolonged labour were negatively affected in terms of birth outcome and or emotional impact, perhaps you should concentrate on the women who upon retrospective note review were shown to have had a labour classifiable as prolonged, in terms of the possible impact of not having had oxytocin, when you are talking about maltreatment (perhaps even using the word inappropriate application of oxytocin)

4. Page 12. In your conclusion when referring to the need for increased skill being required in identification of prolonged labour to avoid mistreatment, you may wish to highlight the importance of clear documentation in the clinical record.

5. I would also suggest that 2 months post birth is still quite an early timeframe to elicit information regarding future pregnancies, particularly if the birth experience has been very different from what the woman had planned or anticipated. Most women experiencing birth for the first time need a significant period of time to recover and perhaps 12 months might be a more realistic marker for reviewing all aspects of emotional and physical health.

6. I appreciate your fantastic skill in writing your paper in English. There are still just a little more work required to refine the English.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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