Reviewer’s report

Title: High proportion of maternal near-miss and death associated with caesarean section complications: a cross-sectional study at a university hospital and a regional hospital in Tanzania

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Reviewer: Claudia Hanson

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High proportion of maternal near-miss and deaths associated with Caesarean section complications: a cross-sectional study at the university hospital and a regional hospital in Tanzania

This is an important and well conducted study investigating into serious maternal events and death in relation to Caesarean section. It alerts to the high risk in conducting a Caesarean section under resource-poor conditions. The finding are important not only for Tanzania or programmers for maternal health but results might also alert to unwanted risk in conducting operational procedures in under-recourse settings for other indications.

The finding that the risk of life-threatening complications is three times higher in the regional compared to the university hospital - which is receiving the bulk of referral cases – is striking. One limitation of the study is that this finding is not correlated to the resource levels (inputs) other than availability of staff. This limits also the discussion which does not include any discussion on the health service organisations and health system factors. For a deeper discussion availability of resources such as financial resources per delivery and equipment might be needed.

Minor essential revisions

Methods, Setting: Please check whether Temeke hospital is truly a ‘regional’ hospital. DSM is one region and should have 1 regional hospital and 3 district hospitals (for each of its three districts) according to national plans. I think Temeke is a district hospital which explains even more the lack of ‘resources’.

Participants: It might be helpful to expand a bit more on the identification of cases and the method of data collection (tools) to decide and categorise. The statement that one possibility was that the researcher observed a criterions needs to be more explained.

Analysis: Were data double entered, computerisation using excel is prone to errors, were they checked?

Discussion: I’m missing the reference from the WHO study which also point to the increased risk

Souza, J., et al., Caesarean section without medical indications is associated with an increased risk of adverse short-term maternal outcomes: the 2004-2008

**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 I have no competing interests