Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal near-miss and death and their association with caesarean section complications: a cross-sectional study at a university hospital and a regional hospital in Tanzania

Version: 5 Date: 23 May 2014

Reviewer: Nanna Maaløe

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks to the authors for their re-submission of this highly relevant and interesting study. The new description, including the table, of the WHO near-miss criteria applied is comprehensive, and in general, the discussion and conclusion are better balanced.

Please see specific comments for minor essential revisions below:

METHOD:

1. Consider rephrasing "mid-2000s"; it may be misunderstood as around year 2500.

DISCUSSION:

2. Please rephrase to “Due to practical reasons, we could not follow women after their discharge from hospital.”

3. Please rephrase to “…hypertension or pre-eclampsia were detected at the antenatal clinic…”.

4. Please rephrase to “In our study, 87% of MNM events and deaths at the university hospital were referred…”.

5. Please rephrase to “…antenatal services need to more effectively detect women at risk for hypertensive disorders…”.

6. Please rephrase to “The findings also highlights an urgent need to decrease maternal risks associated with CS”.

7. Consider changing “auditing CS decisions” to “auditing CS indications”.

8. Consider rephrasing or removing “…we also detected several cases of iatrogenic complications, which raises concerns about patient safety”. The many cases caused by hypertensive disorders and postpartum haemorrhage also cause concerns about patient safety and might indirectly be caused by poor labour management as well.

9. Consider rephrasing to “…offered an estimation of the adverse effects of CS on maternal health in this setting…”.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.