Reviewer's report

Title: Severe Maternal Morbidity and Near Miss: incidence and risk factors in the reference maternities of Sergipe, Northeast, Brazil.

Version: 2 Date: 23 May 2013

Reviewer: Tom Witteveen

Reviewer's report:

1. This study is relevant because of its importance to show the difference between major city hospitals en other smaller hospitals because the near miss rate is higher in low economic regions and should be recognised.

2. Major Compulsory Revisions
   Some method parts are unclear to me. what are the economic levels of both regions? Why is this hospital seen as high risk? The authors speak in the results about management en clinical indications for SAMM, what are the criteria? Severe management indicators? Many terms in this manuscript are unclear what is meant by this. Unconscious state? Glasgow coma scale, shock, what were the criteria? Hemorrhagic? how many blood loss?

3. If i would reproduce this study i would not be able to based on the method explanation.

4. Minor Essential Revisions
   Results
   The incidence is calculated based on live births while births with death might be cases of maternal near-miss.

5. Hypertensive disorders are the main cause, here might be underreporting of the hemorrhagic disorders? criteria?

6. In the discussion there is not much spoken of limitations of this study, which is never possible for a study.

5. Conclusion should be shorter in my opinion. Give a clear answer to the main research question.

7. Overall: English grammar en spelling mistakes are sometimes wrong and unclear. This might also influence my opinion on the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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