Reviewer's report

Title: Direct versus indirect measurement techniques for the measurement of blood loss after delivery

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Reviewer: Ndola Prata

Reviewer's report:

e: 'Direct versus indirect measurement techniques for the measurement of blood loss after delivery'
Shubha Ambardekar, Tara Shochet, Hillary Bracken, Kurus Coyaji and Beverly Winikoff
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
Research article

The research question posed by the authors is well defined and the results of great importance to the field.
The methods are appropriate and well described. The data is sound and the manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.
The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data; the limitations of the study are clearly and well stated.
The title and the abstract accurately convey what has been found.
Overall writing of the manuscript is excellent.

Please make your review as constructive and detailed as possible in your comments so that authors have the opportunity to overcome any serious deficiencies that you find and please also divide your comments into the following categories:

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)
- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

journal know if they believe that research has been falsified or manipulated, or if there are issues with the authorship or contributions towards the manuscript, such as the unacknowledged involvement of a medical writer.

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

I suggest further statistical analysis with the current data. If authors would rather not do it, they should give a reason and the editorial committee can then make a final decision.

1. Conduct a regression analysis assessing blood loss, including a dummy variable for measurement type (direct vs. indirect) and controlling for all other co-variates, even though we are not expecting these to be significant. This analysis will give us some more information on the difference in reading direct, vs. indirect, net of controls.

2. Conduct regression analysis using log(loss) to assess percentage difference (exponentiate coefficients). This analysis will help us understand whether the previous model (see point 1 above) is really just a fixed difference or it is a percentage error.

- Minor Essential Revisions

I suggest in tables to specify after direct or indirect, blood loss measurement.

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 do not have competing interests