Reviewer's report

Title: Labour management and Obstetric outcomes among pregnant women admitted in latent phase compared to active phase of labour at Bugando Medical Centre in Tanzania

Version: 3
Date: 30 December 2013
Reviewer: Barbara Kwast

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions: 30-12-2013 Dr. B.E. Kwast

Background: Line 7: what is DM? Write out Diabetes Mellitus. Why are some conditions mentioned with capitals and not others? Keep to Journal publication standards.

Quote from manuscript in background:
“Possible reason for the increased rate of intervention is that prolonged latent phase may be misdiagnosed as a protraction or arrest disorder in the active phase of labor.”

Comment: Please explain what this means or else delete. A woman who is in active phase of labour has a cervical dilatation of 4cm or more and is not anymore in latent phase.

Comment: If a woman has a thick, uneffaced and undilated cervix, should she be diagnosed as being in latent phase of labour?

Comment: occipito transverse or occipito posterior position.

Question: is there a labour management protocol for the active phase of labour? If not, may be there should be one for both latent and active phase of labour.

Results section and Table 1.
I am sorry that my comment may not have been clear. The Table 1 under section gravidity should not have been changed, but only the English sentence in the write up.

What is the essential finding you want to present?
Either: 93.6% of women admitted in the active phase were primigravidae, or among the total of 500 women in the study, 71% were primigravidae (34% admitted in latent phase and 66% in active phase of labour).

Discussion:
Why should the higher percentage of PPH among active phase admissions be due to human resource shortage? The women admitted in latent phase are subject to the same human resource shortage, or not? I would suggest this sentence is deleted as this is not scientifically sound.

Discussion and References:
Please check the numbers of the references in the Discussion with the Reference list as I am unable to always elicit which reference refers to which country. For instance: ref. 11 is not mentioned as Ethiopia in the text. I am not sure whether Iran, Iraq and Bangladesh references are always correct.

Question: Could the authors include a line on limitation of the study in the sense that point of delivery and interventions were not further analyzed for progress of labour along alert and action lines?

Please use spell check consistently throughout the document (e.g. caesarean section)

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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'.