Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of Pre- and Postpartum Depression in Jamaican Women.

Version: 1  Date: 1 August 2005

Reviewer: Toshinori Kitamura

Reviewer's report:

General

Interesting paper
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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors should define the duration of the sample recruitment e.g., February 1999 to March 2001. How many women were eligible out of which these 140 women were selected.

Was this study approved by the Ethical Committee (Institutional Review Board)?

Revisions of statistical analyses are requested. The authors compared each of the hormonal variables across the three study points --- 8 wk gestation, 28 wk gestation, and 1 day postpartum, and 35 wk postpartum. This analysis should be repeated in four groups of women they defined. The level of each hormonal variable should be analysed by two-way analysis of variance. Alternatively it may be interesting to examine the correlations between the scores of the Zung Self-rating Depression Scale and each hormonal variable. It may also be interesting to regress the SDS score on the hormonal levels.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

As already reported, the SDS consists of three subscales (1). Each subscale score may be subjected to statistical analyses separately.


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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.