Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2005

Reviewer: Anne Buist

Reviewer's report:

General
Perinatal depression is an important public health issue with far reaching ramifications for all the family members and as such represents an important area of research. Whilst most research has been done in Western cultures, there is increasing information on its prevalence in cultures other than western, but further work increases our knowledge and is worthwhile. Thyroid dysfunction has been reported and also represents an unknown area of further exploration.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
We need more information on this population to make sense of the findings. There is a high drop out rate through failure to attend antenatal appointments, and an extraordinarily high rate of elevated Zung depressions scales that is not discussed or addressed. There is also a very high rate of single motherhood - is this normal for this group or a change in recent times? Cultural issues not known to those outside Jamaica need to be expanded upon. I am inclined to think that the measure is unsuitable for pregnant women (ie this is why the EPDS dropped reference to physical symptoms that are an indication of pregnancy rather than depression). What is the clinical significance of the thyroid findings? Most research in this area has found changes but they aren't anything that endocrinologists want to do something about. This needs discussion.

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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)
The first line of the conclusions needs rewriting - not sure what they meant by "corporate area"

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Odds RATIOS would be nice to have for risk factors.

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

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests