Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of social psychological determinants of satisfaction with childbirth in a cross-national perspective

Version: 2 Date: 25 July 2007

Reviewer: Ellen Hodnett

Reviewer's report:

General

The report is much improved, and the authors have taken seriously every comment and suggestion. This was no easy task, and I would like to congratulate them for the comprehensiveness of their revisions.

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

None.

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

In regard to mixed results about relationships between pain and satisfaction, you are comparing (and giving equal weight to) systematic reviews of the evidence and single, sometimes small studies for which research designs and methodologic rigour are not indicated. I would argue that there is indeed considerable consensus, if rigorous methods in a systematic review are used to investigate the question. Some studies (e.g. Salmon) were included in Hodnett's systematic review, and thus mentioning them separately is misleading. And others (e.g. the one referring to pain and satisfaction after orthopaedic surgery) are irrelevant, because pain during childbirth has a very different meaning to women than pain after orthopaedic surgery.

I do not understand this sentence:

“Another remarkable finding is that long labours did not result in lower general satisfaction, but this association is weak (B = 0.000, P < 0.001).”

There is still a lot of use of present tense in the methods and results sections of the report, when past tense should be used.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.