Reviewer's report

Title: Transition to parenthood: the needs of parents in pregnancy and early parenthood.

Version: 2 Date: 29 May 2008

Reviewer: Kavita Nanda

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Major comments:

1. Your first aim is to “explore the needs of first-time parents in relation to the care, support and education during the antenatal period, particularly in relation to preparing for the transition to parenthood and their parenting skills”. However, you already state that “The importance of the transition to parenthood on a mother’s view of parenting, her parenting skills, her self-esteem and her relationship with her partner are well documented and has been recognised at a policy level in England and Wales … More emotional and informational support for parents both antenatally and postnatally has been a recommendation made by several studies”. So, how does your study add to this body of knowledge?

2. The second aim of this study is to “identify any different issues for women who were with a stable partner compared to those without.” However, you recruited hardly any women without partners, and did not attempt to seek other avenues to identify these women. Thus, you are unable to assess this question.

3. I don’t understand what you mean by “purposive sampling”. What is this? Why not random sampling?

4. How did you select your sample size? Do you consider 20 women representative of the general population of antenatal women in your area?

5. Did the women provide informed consent? Was it written or oral?

6. How did you select the interview questions? How did you train interviewers? Did you assess consistency between interviewers?

7. The data analysis section is very sparse. Because there were previous studies on this subject, some type of theoretic basis or framework must have been possible.

8. Results—I do not find the multiple quotations helpful, such as the mention of a dvd.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal
**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.