Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology of nausea and vomiting of pregnancy: Prevalence, severity, determinants, and the importance of race/ethnicity.

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2009

Reviewer: Sohinee S Bhattacharya

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
- None. The paper is well written with a well defined research question and appropriate study design. Unfortunately, as the study population was recruited from hospital attendees - it is unlikely to be population based. However, this does not take away from the importance or validity of the study.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. As the study estimates the proportion of new cases of NVP this should be incidence rather than prevalence.
2. The gestational age cut off for the administration of the first trimester questionnaire was 16 weeks - 4 weeks after the first trimester. Would this not have introduced a bias as women beyond 12 weeks will have had longer to experience NVP than someone who is booked at 8 weeks?
3. Reminders - although mentioned in the figure, no mention is made of reminders being sent out after the first trimester questionnaire in the text.
4. The authors included the use of medication for NVP in the model - in my view this should be more of an indicator of severity rather than a confounding factor. Were the drugs prescribed or OTC?
5. For a relatively common outcome as NVP (288 vs 79) logistic regression is perhaps not the appropriate analysis in prospectively collected data.
6. The p-value cut off is stated as 0.15 - should be 0.05?
7. Multiparity is found to be significantly associated with NVP - it would be interesting (if data were available) to find out whether multiparous women had NVP in their previous pregnancy too.
8. I am not clear about what the authors mean by weight gain in 1st trimester: I suspect this is more an effect rather than cause as women with NVP are less likely to want to eat and therefore gain weight.
9. As the NVP symptoms were self reported, the summary findings on page 10 should read ...Black and Asian women are less likely to report NVP.
10. In the conclusion section the authors talk about targeting specific groups of women who are more susceptible to NVP to optimise management - As there is as yet no way of preventing NVP to my knowledge and all mangement is symptomatic - what exactly do they mean by optimising management?
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.