Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of the feasibility and coverage of a modified universal hearing screening protocol for use with newborn babies of migrant workers in Beijing

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Reviewer: Bolajoko O. Olusanya

Reviewer's report:

General

This paper is potentially a valuable contribution to the current literature on infant hearing screening in China and the rest of the “developing” world. A major strength of the paper is the large number of enrolled babies. However, the rationale for the study among this sub-population of migrant mothers has not been demonstrated clearly and empirically. For example, while it makes intuitive sense to speculate that newborn hearing screening outcomes are likely to be poorer among migrant population in an urban setting, no data from this hospital or from any comparable setting in China has been provided to demonstrate how and why the currently recommended protocol for China has accounted for poorer outcomes among the migrant population compared to the non-migrant population.

It is unclear how the introduction of an earlier OAE screening test at 24-48 hours after birth (with the likelihood of higher false-positives and maternal anxiety) as well as the additional outpatient screening at 2 months would have resulted in improved outcomes without comparing the recommended protocol with the authors’ modified protocol among the migrant population.

Moreover, the effectiveness of any screening protocol must include drop-out rates also besides the achieved coverage and the referral rates from the first OAE screening to final diagnosis with ABR.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors should report the screening outcomes including drop-out rates using the recommended UNHS protocol for China among the migrant population as basis for evaluating the effectiveness/advantages of their modified UNHS protocol in this sub-population.

2. Alternatively, the outcomes from the modified protocol among the migrant population should be compared to the outcomes from among the non-migrant population in the same hospital.

3. There is need to provide a median age at confirmation of hearing loss under the current and modified screening protocols.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The enrolment criteria need to be clearly stated. How were migrant mothers distinguished from non-migrant mothers?


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

**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