Reviewer's report

Title: Anxiety and Stress in the Postpartum: Is there more to postnatal distress than depression?

Version: 1 Date: 19 December 2005

Reviewer: Deborah Da Costa

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well-written manuscript examining an important and understudied issue among postpartum women. Both clinical and empirical work support a broader conceptualisation of postnatal distress rather than the more common and narrower view of postpartum depression. The strengths of this article include its relatively large sample size and the use of psychometrically sound inventories to assess psychological distress.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Generalisability concerns: This sample was part of a larger cross-sectional study. The authors do not mention what that study was about. This is important to determine what subjects were originally volunteering for and how representative they may be of this population. Moreover, how many women were invited to participate but declined. How many agreed to participate but never returned the questionnaires?
Results section: Normative DASS data - what age range were the women in the normative sample, this would be informative to determine if this is an appropriate comparison group.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Page 22, 3rd sentence in the last paragraph <inventory> should not be in parenthesis.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The results section is very lengthy and at times difficult to follow.

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: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.