Reviewer's report

Title: Community-based infant hearing screening in a developing country: parental uptake of follow-up services

Version: 2 Date: 26 January 2009

Reviewer: Shally Awasthi

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I have gone through the documents attached, including Dr. Johnson's concerns. There are certain points which need to be corrected/clarified:

1. Preterm is age <37 weeks gestation (and not <34 weeks as given by authors). A reference to this is needed in the text.

2. Numbers of children referred from the 4 catchment areas and their drop outs have to be given.

3. Since mothers who delivered in hospitals were less likely to come back for the screening, it is because they perceived that this has been done at the place of birth? Since they delivered in the hospital, they have better care seeking habits.

4. The concern raised by Dr. Johnson could be addressed by multivariate analysis. Is delivering in hospital a confounding or a true predictor variable, is unclear without this analysis.

Since there is just a 4 year difference in age of mothers who returned or did not return for the screening and diagnostic evaluation (both mothers were between 25-39 years of age), the findings are not likely to have any impact on program development.

The study is also not reporting the prevalence of early hearing loss (actually it cannot do so due to high drop out rates).