Reviewer's report

Title: 'A hidden disorder until the pieces fall into place' - a qualitative study of vaginal prolapse

Version: 1 Date: 15 April 2010

Reviewer: John E Jelovsek

Reviewer's report:

1. The title is confusing. I would suggest the title be more specific to the content of the manuscript. Maybe a title such as, “A qualitative study of health care seeking behavior among women undergoing surgery for pelvic organ prolapse.”

2. The term “process of comprehension and action” although explained in the text is confusing and I am not sure whether using it contributes to additional understanding. I would consider removing it altogether.

3. For the inclusion criteria on page 5, please clarify how symptomatic women were determined to be symptomatic.

4. On page 5, please explain the term purposive sampling for the readers.

5. Please state whether patients underwent informed consent for the study?

6. Please clarify whether saturation was or was not achieved rather than “probably achieved” and what method and/or criteria was used to determine this?

7. Please describe the background, training, and preconceptions of the investigators? Since the investigators are being relied on for analysis of the data, we must know their training and biases. Knowing these characteristics, we can use them to evaluate their conclusions.

8. Following on 7, did the researchers' original preconceptions change or are they surprised by the study results as they emerged?

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

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' below