Author's response to reviews

Title: The risk factor profile of women with secondary infertility: an unmatched case-control study in Kigali, Rwanda

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TO: Editors BMC Womens' health

From: Nathalie Dhont, submitting and corresponding author

Date: 13/01/2011

Re: submission of revised paper on risk factors for secondary infertility in Rwanda

Dear editor,

We would like to submit a revision of the following paper: ‘The risk factor profile of women with secondary infertility: a case-control study in Kigali, Rwanda’ by N Dhont, S Luchters, C Muvunyi, J Vyankandondera, L De Naeyer, M Temmerman and J van de Wijgert.

Thank you for the reviews and the useful comments. We have made changes to the document, which are marked in red, incorporating all the comments. I summarize the changes made:

• In the abstract “in the same age group” is added
• “Predictors” is replaced by “risk factors” throughout the text
• Page 11 “enters” is changed to “may enter”
• “Neonatal and paediatric care” is replaced by “reduction of stillbirth and infant mortality rates”
• I have added a declaration about ethical committee approval
• I have added the following sentences in the discussion: “Thus, the different aspects of reproductive ill health go hand in hand indicating a need for a more holistic approach towards reproductive health services in SSA. “ AND “Regardless of the underlying mechanisms, more use of family planning methods and condoms is likely to decrease not only unwanted pregnancies but also infertility rates.”

• The conclusion is slightly rephrased:“Improved obstetric and prenatal care in addition to a better prevention and management of HIV/STIs will contribute considerably to the prevention of infertility in SSA. Furthermore, decreasing stillbirth and infant mortality rates and improving access to family planning, especially for young women, have also a role to play.”

I hope the revision is satisfactory and will make the paper acceptable for publication. Thank you for your attention to this paper,

Sincerely yours,

Nathalie Dhont