Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 24 December 2010

Reviewer: Win May

Reviewer’s report:

The authors pose a well-defined question, which is also an important one.

The methods are appropriate and well-described. I would like the authors to add in the Abstract that the controls were multiparous women "in the same age group." That is described in the Methods section of the document, but not in the Abstract. In addition, I would like to suggest that instead of the term "predictors", the authors might like to use "risk factors" as stated in their title. If they would like to determine predictors, they may want to continue with a cohort study.

The data is sound and adheres to the relevant standards for reporting.

In reviewing the discussion and conclusions, my suggestion would be to make some of the statements less definitive, as the findings are associative and not causal. E.g. Page 11 – “The fact that secondary infertile women are more likely to be HIV infected and to report lifetime high-risk sexual behaviour than primary infertile and fertile women indicates that this group of women may enter a vicious circle of unsafe sex, beginning from the start of sexual activity, leading to a first pregnancy (and often the last), STIs and HIV infection, all of which can impair their fertility. “

In the conclusion where the authors state: “Our data suggest that secondary infertility rates in Rwanda could be significantly reduced by improving prenatal, obstetric, neonatal and paediatric care”, my suggestion would be to delete “neonatal and pediatric care” as there were no findings to suggest that.

The limitations of the work are clearly stated and the authors acknowledge previous work in this area.

The title and abstract clearly convey their findings and the writing is acceptable

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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