Reviewer's report

Title: Interventions to reduce postpartum stress in first-time mothers: A Randomized-Controlled Trial

Version: 2 Date: 7 June 2014

Reviewer: Karen Ertel

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting trial on an important topic.

Comments:

1. Please provide a more thorough discussion and explanation of the PSS-10, including its use in the postpartum.
2. Response bias due to social desirability on the part of the mothers seems like a real threat in this study, but it was not mentioned. Related, what did the mothers know about the aims of the study?
3. The authors note that the assessors may have known the subject's intervention allocation. Please discuss in further detail.
4. Is there a way to put the approx 3-point difference in context? It would be particularly useful if it could be put into the context of predicting depression. If that is not possible, perhaps compare based on sociodemographic differences, or any other relevant characteristics or interventions (previously published) that show an approx 3-point difference?
5. Page 10, lines 9 & 18-19 refer to differences that were not statistically significant. Please be clear that these were not stat sig.
6. Table 1 - what are the numbers in parenths?
7. Table 3 - what are the numbers in parenths? Please indicate that numbers are %.
8. Table 4 - ditto
9. Figure needs title, y-axis description, a description or key, and the lines need to be larger for comprehension.

Minor questions/comments:

10. The sample is from women delivering in hospitals. Is that the norm in Beirut? What % of deliveries occur in hospitals?
11. Pg 5, line 8, the parenthetical phrase seems like a note to a co-author. Perhaps revise or rephrase.

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