Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of gender and parenthood on physicians' careers - professional and personal situation seven years after graduation

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Reviewer: Fiona French

Reviewer's report:

This paper is on a topic of considerable interest in many Western countries i.e. the increasing feminization of the medical profession and the differences in career progression between men and women doctors and the implications of this for medical workforce planners and providers of patient care. The research question is clearly stated, the research methods are appropriate and described well. The data have been appropriately collected and analysed. The fact that this is a longitudinal cohort study is a major strength as many studies on this topic are cross-sectional. The fact that a high proportion of the initial cohort are still participating is also a strength. I think these could be mentioned in the limitations/strengths section at the end. I do not think that the homogeneity of the sample is really a weakness as the purpose of the study is to find out about the impact of gender/parenthood among doctors. References to literature are appropriate. The authors could perhaps have drawn on the wider literature on the impact of gender/parenthood on career progression in the working population as a whole and/or other professions but this is not essential, simply a comment. I am not familiar with the academic literature from Switzerland but will now be taking an interest in the progress of this very interesting study. There are a few small errors such as missing words which can easily be corrected e.g. aspire should be followed by "to" (2nd last sentence in results paragraph of abstract)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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