Reviewer's report

Title: Critical views on postpartum care expressed by new mothers

Version: 1 Date: 8 August 2007

Reviewer: Eva Nissen

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper derives from a voluntary sample from a national cohort study investigating women's experience of childbirth. Women included in this qualitative study are those who had negative comments on post partum care, n=150 (total sample, n=2783). Another 77 positive comments were excluded since the authors wished to focus on the negative comments. The rationale for this was a wish to find comments that could form a basis for future improvements of post partum care. During the analysis six categories emerged concerning organisation and environment, staff attitudes and behaviour, breastfeeding support, information, the role of the father and attention to the mother.

I find the paper interesting and well written in good English. The methodological approach using manifest content analysis seems adequate and the methodology is well discussed. I recommend the paper for publication.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

P 11:4 line bottom of page: quotation should read “your” instead of “you”.

P 13:4 top of page: I see no reason to keep the quotation in original language.


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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. In the discussion section the authors do not comment on future research in post partum care.

2. The mothers’ negative experience may not only be caused by inappropriate behaviour and attitudes of midwives but also in lack of knowledge of post partum pain relief, support and advice during the establishment of breastfeeding.

3. I think the focus on negative statements should be reflected upon in the the method section of discussion. –positive experience may help a lot in improving
the post partum care.

**What next?**: Accept after discretionary revisions

**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