Reviewer's report

The Quality of Emergency Obstetrical Surgery by Assistant Medical Officers in Tanzanian District Hospitals. A shortage of qualified staff is not the limiting factor in Tanzania; rather, it is access to facilities where such care is available. By Colin McCord, Godfrey Mbaruku, Caetano Pereira, Calist Nzabuhakwa, and Staffan Bergstrom. [Health Affairs 28, no. 5 (2009): w876–w885 (published online 6 August 2009; 10.1377/hlthaff.28.5.w876)]

On discussion and policy implications, this article states that:

"With 1,300 assistant medical officers in service now and 200 new ones graduating each year, Tanzania has staff available for these facilities if they can be built and supported. More midwives are also needed, existing hospitals must be improved, and better transport is needed to create a functioning referral system. But shortage of staff capable of doing emergency obstetrical surgery is
not the limiting factor in Tanzania.”

**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.