Reviewer's report

Title: Does knowledge of danger signs of pregnancy predict birth preparedness? A critique of the evidence from women admitted with pregnancy complications.

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2014

Reviewer: Zia Ul Ul-Haq

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Participants and data collection:
• “Participants were women admitted to hospital from 20-36 weeks of gestation for complications of pregnancy”. Did the authors select all of the women admitted with complications or it was random selection? Need to be explained and justified here.

• “Data was collected using the tool on monitoring birth preparedness from JHPIEGO [16] adapted to the local context.” Can the authors please add more detail about this tool and its validity? Information should also be added about its adaptation to the local context. Does it have any affect on the validity?

• Is there any reference to support this definition of “knowledgeable”? “A woman who reported at least one danger sign in pregnancy, childbirth or postpartum period was considered to be ‘knowledgeable’ on danger signs.”

• Again is there any reference to support this definition of “knowledgeable” of BPCR? “We also asked about awareness components of BPCR. Women who mentioned at least three of the five basic component of BPCR were regarded as ‘knowledgeable’ on BPCR.”

Minor Essential Revisions

Introduction; last para: “Whether knowledge of danger signs translates into improved birth preparedness is not documented”. Is it true and whether it is in Uganda or worldwide?

Methods:
First para: “This research was part of a post-doctoral research project.........” It is already mentioned in acknowledgment and seems to me needless here

Study settings:
“Health care is provided by a variety of health care professionals.......” Too much detail which may not be required here

Participants and data collection:
“socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, marital status...occupation,”
add closing bracket

Data analysis:
The dependent, independent and confounding variables should be mentioned clearly here.

Results:
Last para “There was a statistically significant...” please, mention the adjusted OR, 95% CI and P-value

Discussion:
Para 1,line 2; Didn't understand “among women antepartum women”

It should be mentioned here that the participants were women admitted with pregnancy complications.

Discretionary Revisions
Para 3- last two sentences- mentioning ref 9 one time may be enough

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