Reviewer's report

Title: The prevalence of recto-vaginal colonization and antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of Group B Streptococcus among near term pregnant mothers attending ANC in two referral hospitals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Zufan Lakew Woldu(MD) Associate Professor Gynecology and Obstetrics Addis Ababa University, School of Medicine, Department of Ob-GY Tel: +251 91220019, E mail: zufan_lakew@yahoo.com Tatek Gebreegziabher Teklehaimanot (MSC) Medical laboratory technology Addis Ababa University, School of Medicine Tikur Anbassa Hospital Tel: 25191164438, E mail: tatekgeher@yahoo.com Sisay Teklu Waji(MD) Assistant Professor Gynecology and Obstetrics Addis Ababa University, School of Medicine, Department of Ob-GY Tel: 251 911227806, E mail: siteet@yahoo.com P.O. BOX: 27954/1000 AA, Ethiopia Mahlet Yigeremu Gebremariam(MD)

Version: 2 Date: 11 February 2014

Reviewer: Rooyen Mavenyengwa

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Major compulsory revisions:
1. There is need to clarify why written consent was not sought from the participants.
2. There is also need to explain why no ethical board approved the study including authorities at the Hospitals.
3. The details of the specific antibiotic testing techniques should be described and the ranges or cut off points for sensitive and resistant spelt out.
4. The references used mostly are old of which more than 86% are older than 10 years.
5. There is need to cite more recent African studies done on prevalence of GBS.
6. Table 1 is not referred to in the text
7. Odds ratios and confidence intervals should be calculated for data in Table 2.

Minor essential revisions
1. Shorten title by taking out "near term" and attending ANC" and "referral"
2. Include aspect of risk factors in objective
3. page 2-under last sentence under Results..All "isolates" is missing. For antibiotics use small letters for the first letter of the name of the antibiotic.
   Conclusion needs to be reformulated because 7.2% is not high compared to current results from other African countries. Include prevalence in key words.
   Take care to space words properly.
4. page 3-Space words properly, use more recent references. Refer to recent African studies
5. page 4—write GA and the two Hospitals in full.

6. page 5—Refer to the appropriate reference rather than just stating "Gondar study". First sentence on this page is a repetition of what has already been stated. Briefly explain what quota sampling is and how you applied it into your study. Explain in detail if any other permissions were sought. State version of SPSS. State name of company and city where CHROMagar strep B is made. State city company for streptex kit used. Explain if there are any established prophylactic measures against GBS currently in use in Ethiopia. For results refer to Table in text and explain briefly what it shows and the interesting issues being summarised thereof. Include Odds ratios and confidence intervals in Table 1.

7. page 6—Correct all spelling errors e.g. "ethnic". Separate references cited properly. Explain last sentence of first paragraph epidemiological implications. Cite the CDC 1996 reference.

8. page 7—Provide appropriate references for all major statements made e.g. about sexual transmission of GBS

9. page 9—Refer to participants not subjects. All notations in listed references must be accurate

10. In the Table heading what does AA and the year written mean?

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:

No