Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge of obstetric danger signs and birth preparedness practices among women in rural Uganda

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Reviewer: João Paulo Souza

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This is an interesting manuscript that certainly merits publication in the Reproductive Health. Below, few suggestions in order to improve the understanding of the readers.

MAJOR REVISIONS

Details on the second stage of sampling are missing. I suppose not all women were located or consented in being interviewed. The authors inform that women were randomly selected, but they need to state what is the proportion of selected women that were actually interviewed.

In the table 3, the number of decimals used should be consistent. If the authors wish to present the second decimal for education (i.e. 95% CI lower limit equals 0.98) it should be used across the tables, or this should be presented as 1.0.

MINOR REVISIONS

How the random selection of women was performed? How these women were identified as potentially relevant to the study?

With regard the informed consent, it is mentioned that all participants provided written consent. Considering the education levels or a largely rural population in Uganda, I suppose that a substantial proportion of women are unable to read and write. What was the procedure used in such cases?

I have a somewhat reservation on presenting both 95% CI and the p value. I think it is not necessary and, in borderline situations, it may create confusion. In this paper the authors seem to prefer the p value, as they are not always considering a CI touching 1.0 as statistically not significant. My suggestion would be to stick with 95% CI and regard the results as not statistically significant if the 1.0 is included in the CI. In the case of the danger signs timing (i.e. whether it is antepartum, during childbirth or postpartum), more importantly than the finding that the knowledge of danger sign during childbirth is not associated with birth preparedness, I see an overall trend between knowledge of danger signs and birth preparedness, as all point estimate are greater than one and, during childbirth it is “almost” significant (one could regard it as marginally significant).

Discretionary changes

In the section “data management”, in the sentence “Twelve research assistants (all graduates of social sciences graduates) with experience in survey data collection were trained for one week…”, the qualification of the research
assistants need to be revised (there is an extra “graduates”) 

**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