Reviewer’s report

Title: Incidence, aetiology and outcomes of obstetric-related acute kidney injury in Malawi: a prospective observational study

Version: 0 Date: 09 May 2017

Reviewer: Patrick Mark

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and important study looking at AKI in Malawi

I have a few concerns which I would like the authors to clarify

I was a bit confused in the methods. How patients who were known to have renal failure defined? Could an extra sentence be added to this to elaborate how this was assessed?

I am unaware how demographic data work in this centre, but to get any idea of how common AKI is and how many patients are considered at risk, it should be able to describe the number of deliveries during the study period and not just 'approximately'. I would find it hard to believe that any obstetric unit anywhere in the world could not state how many deliveries occurred in a certain time frame (all kinds of initiatives around maternal and infant mortality should support this). The very precise details of twins, gestation etc aren't necessary if not available. This would give highly relevant incidence of AKI data.

We have no data on the untested 'not at risk group'. Some discussion of anything that might have been missed in this group, assuming that they did not all have completely uncomplicated deliveries. Again, actually numbers would be useful.

Lack of proteinuria data should be acknowledged-even dipstick

The authors go in to a lot of details about not having previous creatinine measure. In the UK it is not standard practice to check creatinine in pregnancy in the absence of another medical reason to do so. So, this isn't really such a huge issue, although I guess some of the 'at risk' group might have had it checked. Certainly, in UK, many patients with pre-eclampsia won't have a previous creatinine if this is their first interaction with hospital healthcare since childhood. This discussion could be refined a bit to illustrate that this is not such a big deal.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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