Reviewer's report

Title: Stress matters! Psychophysiological and emotional loadings of fetal magnetic resonance imaging

Version: 1
Date: 17 November 2014

Reviewer: Madeleine Barnett

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Further clarity is needed regarding group 1. The risk that is 'suspected', needs to be explored to gain an understanding of what this group represents? Are they intended to be a control group or a group with unclear lesions with uncertain clinical significance. This changes the nature of the group entirely.

2. Clarity is needed regarding the information given to mother prior to the scan, patient leaflets for example, or video links. How the statistics were calculated for this is not clear. Were the measures standardised? Was it noted whether the the mothers had had a previous MRI for other reasons? This would be important.

3. Clarity would be needed regarding the inherent stresses related to the MRI scan i.e. claustrophobia and whether a patient had previously had an MRI scan.

4. The technical matters regarding why the SCL measures were not possible needs to be explained. Line 176.

5. It must be clear from the title and tone of the paper that the purpose of this article is to look at the immediate psychological response within the mother, and not indicating a negative outcome for the fetus. Identifying a reduction in stress with addition of a supportive person is of benefit, but it must be clear that the stress related to MRI is not investigated in this paper with regard to adverse fetal outcomes. It would also be helpful to comment on the effect after mothers receive the MRI report and if stress levels are changed by this.

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:

Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper, either now or in the future?
NO

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this paper, either now or in the future?

NO

Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

NO

Do you have any other financial competing interests?

NO

Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

I currently work as a Clinical Research Fellow in the Perinatal Imaging Department at King's College London.