Reviewer's report

Title: Validating the British Columbia Perinatal Data Registry: a chart re-abstraction study

Version: 2 Date: 16 March 2015

Reviewer: Samantha Lain

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BMC pregnancy & childbirth review

This study is the validation of provincial perinatal data registry in British Columbia against medical records. Although not an original or new study, validation studies of large routinely collected databases are very important if the datasets are to be used for research. This is a well performed validation study of a high standard. I have only minor comments:

Minor essential revisions:

1. I would like to see a Table 1 of characteristics of the patients whose records were abstracted - both unweighted and weighted proportions. Are the characteristics similar to the whole of BC? Has the clustered sampling design worked? Are the results generalisable?

2. The inclusion of positive predictive values in the results as well as sensitives and specificities would be useful. The PPVs shows how accurate what has been reported in the dataset really is. What proportion of women recorded in the BCPDR actually had the procedure/condition recorded. The PPV is more useful than the specificity as the specificity is impacted by prevalence and is often high with pregnancy items as they are rare.

Discretionary revisions:

3. For the variable dichotmized to complete/not complete perhaps also you could calculate a % agreement that shows not only the proportion completed but how well it matched what was in the medical records

4. What was inter-rater reliability? How much did the result depend on the abstractor?

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 I have no competing interests