Reviewer's report

Title: Immigrants from conflict-zone countries: a comparison study of obstetric outcomes in a low-risk maternity hospital in Norway.

Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2015

Reviewer: Birgitta Essén

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The theory of cortisol and stress contributing to adverse perinatal outcome (mother/newborn) is not fully elaborated in the background and not discussed in the Discussion in relation to being a refugee from war zones and

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Yes
The logistic regression could be done stepwise so it will be more clear for the reader which of the bivariate analyses that are of importance to explain the outcomes.

3. Are the data sound?
Yes but not fully presented
Tables are unclear and could be developed

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation?
Yes

5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes

6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes but lack of focus on the original research aim

7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Suggest to add references on other studies related to, pls see suggestions later on

9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The idea of looking specifically on immigrants from war zone is not totally new but of interest for this setting. However, the results and the discussion parts cover a lot of outcomes not always related to the stress theories. The interesting aim get lost in a lot of data and results that are known earlier.

10. Is the writing acceptable?
Not native speaker so leave this to editor

Other studies on refugees from war zones:

Migration and preterm birth in war refugees: a Swedish cohort study.
Liu C, Urquia M, Cnattingius S, Hjern A.
PMID: 24420703

Violence papers:
Perceived threat of violence and exposure to physical violence against foreign-born women: a Swedish population-based study.
Fernbrant C, et al.

Being a bridge: Swedish antenatal care midwives' encounters with Somali-born women and questions of violence; a qualitative study.
Byrskog U et al.
PMID: 25591791 Free PMC Article

Related citations

2.
Violence and reproductive health preceding flight from war: accounts from Somali born women in Sweden.
Byrskog U et al..

Quality of care/use of interpreter/communication:
Suboptimal care and maternal mortality among foreign-born women in Sweden: maternal death audit with application of the 'migration three delays' model.
Are some perinatal deaths in immigrant groups linked to suboptimal perinatal care services?
Essén B, Bödker B, Sjöberg NO, Langhoff-Roos J, Greisen G, Gudmundsson S, Ostergren PO.

In conclusion, the material has a lot of potential but Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached) is needed in order to focus on what is in the title and the aim.

The author could discuss the findings more strict to the stress-hypothesis. More tables could be used to clarify the results and it is more clear if multi regression analyses are made stepwise.