Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Marie Klingberg-Allvin

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Title: Immigrants from conflict-zone countries: a comparison study of obstetric outcomes in a low-risk maternity hospital in Norway.
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The manuscript focuses an important issue regarding obstetric outcomes among immigrants living in Norway. Existing literature show that immigrants living in Europe have higher risks for adverse obstetric outcomes. The current study aimed to compare obstetric outcomes between immigrant women originating from conflict-zone countries and ethnic Norwegians who gave birth in a low-risk setting. The method used was a population-based study linking the Medical Birth Registry of Norway to Statistics Norway. Although, the study subject is important there are some flaws in the current manuscript suggested to be considered if considered for publication. The following issues are major Compulsory Revisions.

Title: Include method for the study to indicate for the reader what design and method you have applied.

Background: The scientific background is fairly well described however could be updated. I miss register based studies from nordic countries showing immigrants reproductive health/obstetric outcomes and could be included. The section concerning mental Health (page 3, line 63-70) does not clearly build the rationale for the study as this aspect is not included and responded to in the aim or analyses/result. The paper would benefit from including a more clear knowledge gap before the aim.

The aim could be more specified especially in relation to the outcomes and also the group. The Somali group have shown to be at higher risk for adverse health outcomes in other settings as well and this is not new findings. However, I suggest you do a more thorough analysis of the Somali group and try to understand any differences within the group. I would think that Somali women who arrived as refugees during the 90ths do differ from the women who arrived the last 6 years and have more traumatic events and who have been longer in conflict setting.
Method: In total you have included 7409 women and their first births were analyzed. The sampling needs to be clarified and where data was collected. Did you use medical record at the hospital and then linked the information with the Medical register? I question that you call this a populationbased study since it was conducted in one hospital. Maybe a cross-sectional hospital based study would be more appropriate? Clarify the inclusion criteria and if all women given birth during the study period was included or not. The setting could be more developed, the number of birth per year, staffing etc.

The method and your analyzes strategy could be better understood if the dependent variables (adverse outcomes identified in earlier studies) and independent variables was defined more clearly. If the the main outcome was clearly stated the manuscript would be more stringent and the result could be developed. Do you have access to information about FGM this should be included. Overall the method section could be better structured and STROBE Statement—checklist of items could be helpful.

Result: The result section could be developed. The current status of the manuscript provides limited information and based on the description about the dataset the analyses and the presenting could be worked on. Table 2 is hard to understand due to the limited information in the method section about the variables and the justification for the variables in table 2 is missing. A thorough review of the existing literature should be the base for the analyze strategy and used in a more systematic approach in the analyses and presenting of result.

The discussion needs revision after the aim is defined more clearly and the result section developed to be more balanced and adequately supported by the data. Be careful to discuss for example the connection between adverse outcomes and maternal psychological distress and depression (page 10, line 219-229) as this does not refer to your own findings and seem a bit ad hoc as it is written up now. The fact that Somaliborn women have higher risk for adverse outcomes is shown earlier however would need a deeper discussion about the possible differences within this group (eg number of living years in Norway).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests