Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics and outcomes of patients with eclampsia and severe pre-eclampsia in Ndala Hospital, Tanzania

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Reviewer: Charles Agyemang

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Mooij et al. present study describes the characteristics, treatment and maternal and foetal outcome of patients with severe preeclampsia and eclampsia treated in Ndala Hospital in 2011 and 2012 in Tanzania.

Major comments

While the topic of this study is important, I find the underlying basis for this study is quite weak. To put it simply, what does this study add to the current literature in Tanzania especially given the previous study by Urassa DP et al. 2006, 85(5):571-578 and Ndaboine EM et al. 2012, 16(1):35-4? The authors need to justify the relevance of their study.

The added value of this study might be its focus on rural Tanzania compared with previous studies which were mainly based on urban populations. If so, then the authors need to make strongly case for this and readjust the introduction section as well as the discussion section.

The authors stated that the study was performed in full accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. They also stated that they found no reason to approach the ethical committee. I am unsure if this is appropriate practice given that medical records were searched immediately following discharge or death. I have no objection of using medical records, but it is not clear to me whether this can be considered as such. It might worth seeking ethnical advice whether this is appropriate or not.

More information is needed on the statistical analysis. The statement that ‘P-values were calculated with #2 or T-test’ is not sufficient.

The reporting of the study findings in the results section is too descriptive and too long. The discussion section is also too long and very repetitive of the results.

Minor

Page 6, line 2: ‘The hospital protocol categorises hypertension in hypertension…,’ what exactly do the authors mean by ‘hypertension in hypertension’?

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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: None