Author’s response to reviews

Title: "Nurse-Midwives' Ability to Diagnose Acute Third- and Fourth-Degree Obstetric Lacerations in Western Kenya"

Authors:

Leeya Pinder (leeyapinder@gmail.com)
Kelsey Natsuhara (kelseynatsuhara@gmail.com)
Thomas Burke (TFBURKE@partners.org)
Svjetlana Lozo (svjetlana.lozo@gmail.com)
Monica Oguttu (moguttu@kmet.co.ke)
Leah Miller (leahamiller@gmail.com)
Brett Nelson (brett.d.nelson@gmail.com)
Melody Eckardt (melodyeckardt@icloud.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editor comments:

Your manuscript ""Nurse-Midwives' Ability to Diagnose Acute Third- and Fourth-Degree Obstetric Lacerations in Western Kenya"" (PRCH-D-16-00474R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, once you have carried out some essential revisions:

1. There is a reviewer comment that remains (see end of email). Please address the comment and amend your manuscript accordingly if appropriate.

AUTHORS’ REPLY: Thank you. The reviewer’s remaining comment has now been addressed and the manuscript updated, as per our reply to the reviewer’s comment below.
2. Please include a statement on consent to participate in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations. If a consent to participate statement is already present within the main text/Methods section that gives the above information, please also copy/place it under this sub-section.

AUTHORS’ REPLY: We have now also included this statement of consent, which was previously only listed in the Methods section, within the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

3. Please represent authors' names using their full initials, not their full name, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

AUTHORS’ REPLY: Thank you, all author names have been replaced with full initials in the Authors’ Contributions section.

4. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

AUTHORS’ REPLY: Thank you. We have uploaded only a clean version of our final, revised documents, which include the revisions requested here.

Reviewer reports:

Amanda Ampt, PhD (Reviewer 3): Thank you for your responses to my original review. Your comments and edits are appropriate and clearly presented. I suggest that the issue of no 2nd degree laceration pictures could be briefly discussed in the limitation section - this is up to you. You have undertaken an interesting study which reads clearly.
AUTHORS' REPLY: Thank you for this suggestion and for your supportive comments. They have been very helpful. We have now added to our limitations paragraph that the assessment tool did not include a picture of a second-degree laceration.