Reviewer’s report

Title: Fetal heart rate abnormalities during and after External Cephalic Version: which fetuses are at risk and how are they delivered?

Version: 1 Date: 02 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Shawn Walker

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this revised manuscript.

I did find it somewhat difficult to complete the second review because I do not have access to the comments from myself nor the first reviewer following the original submission. I have read over the changes made, but cannot see the original comments which led to those changes.

I still feel that if your primary outcome is to identify which fetuses are at risk of fetal heart rate abnormalities during ECV, estimated fetal weight is the variable you should be using. Fetuses do not have a birth weight; that is only available after the infant is born. Estimated fetal weight is the only measurement which can be used predictively.

And I do not understand why you would exclude the few vaginal breech births which occur from analysis of fetal heart rate abnormalities in labour. Short and tangled cords can be a contributing factor to breech presentation, so it would be interesting to know if fetal heart rate normalities in persistent breech presentations were associated with abnormalities during labour. I understand most of the women in your care choose CS if the fetus remains breech. This is different from other locations which support breech birth, as all of the 45% are not 'emergency' CS in active labour per se. I accept that you say there are few, I just do not understand why you have excluded them from the analysis.

The finding that FHR abnormalities during ECV are not associated with FHR abnormalities during labour should be reassuring to women. And the finding that longer duration of the procedure is associated with FHR abnormalities should encourage practitioners to be cautious and not over-zealous in performance of ECV. So I feel this research is useful for ECV practitioners and women overall.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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