Reviewer’s report

Title: Continuity of care is an important and distinct aspect of childbirth experience: findings of a survey evaluating experienced continuity, experienced quality of care and women's perception of labor.

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Reviewer: Maralyn Foureur

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for an interesting paper that describes a survey of postnatal women in the Netherlands to explore their experience of continuity of care, quality of care and perception of labour. One of the major issues is that the grammar and syntax throughout the paper needs further work as even the title of the paper is grammatically incorrect and I am left wondering if the paper is about 'the experience of continuity of care' or about 'experiencing continuity of care' but 'experienced continuity of care' has been taken out of context from a measurement tool and simply inserted into the title as if it was grammatically correct. I wonder why the term 'experienced' is needed at all since the survey appears to be about 'continuity of care'- yes or no and I am left wondering why the term 'experienced' even needs to be present at all? Is this a particularly new version of the construct- if so then a clear definition needs to be provided as I have never seen the term used in this way previously.

The study design appears to be robust although the time from the actual birth to completing the questionnaire -that can range up to 6 months -seems somewhat problematic as women's processing of their experience changes and matures over time and responses at 6 months post birth may be very different to those gathered close to the birth. There has been no further comment provided in the paper about this aspect of the study.

Given that there were only 15 respondents who received obstetric-led care I am also left wondering if any of the cell sizes on any responses were less than 5 which is a statistical issue not mentioned as being addressed. How many of the 15 women in this group experienced a spontaneous vaginal birth? How was this handled in the data analysis. There is insufficient data provided on the data analysis or provided sufficiently clearly for me to make an informed comment about the robustness of the analysis. It would be extremely useful if the subscale range was provided on the Tables to make more sense of what the table is displaying. I don't know for instance if scores of 3-4 are low or high. Given the research aims included - to compare continuity of care among women who received midwife led versus obstetrician led care at the onset of labour- I expected to see a table comparing the measures by these two criteria.
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.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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