Reviewer's report

Title: Anxiety, depression and relationship satisfaction in the pregnancy following stillbirth and after the birth of a live-born baby: A prospective study

Version: 0 Date: 29 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Maggie Redshaw

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper based on a study carried out with appropriate and useful comparison groups. When the events in focus are relatively rare there is clear value to working with data from an established cohort such as this one in Norway with data linkage.

The following points are made in relation to the different sections of the paper.

1. It would be helpful in the title and elsewhere to refer more to ‘satisfaction’, than 'dissatisfaction' as the changes over time were mirrored across the groups. And were somewhat less marked than the association with depression and anxiety.

2. The background and introduction describe relevant literature and research questions. However, the emphasis is on the next pregnancy and some women and their partners will not go on to further pregnancies.

3. The methods are generally appropriate, however, the psychological measures used are short forms of what are screening instruments rather than diagnostic measures/interviews and this could be emphasised further in the strengths and limitations section.

4. The subgroup analyses on GA of stillbirth and timing of subsequent birth required combining the data on depression and anxiety, with women having anxiety and/or depression as a function of sample size. This is a limitation.

5. Over what period were the data reported collected? This appears to have been quite extended, with the cohort starting in 1999 and data up to 2014 being utilised. Changes in practice, support and guidelines will have changed over time and this should be acknowledged.

6. The findings are of wide interest with the decrease in anxiety and depression found during the first year which was then followed by an increase at the 36 months data collection point. A clear point of concern is identified. There is no mention of the wellbeing of partners.

7. The point about higher rates of anxiety and depression during the third trimester among those who those dropped out or did not complete all five questionnaires is important and the possibility of underestimation is well made.

8. The inter-pregnancy interval was reported not to be associated with 3rd trimester anxiety/depression, but it is not clear quite what happened at later time points. More detail on this would be helpful.
9. The issue of having no information about prior mental health is mentioned. This could be addressed in further research, while the need for continued checks on mothers after stillbirth is discussed, there is little about the research implications of the study, gaps to be addressed, further research questions and so on. Some further thoughts on this point would be useful, given the possibility of further cohort studies.

Minor English language corrections could be made after checking.

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

Yes

**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?**
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 am able to assess the statistics

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Acceptable

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