Reviewer’s report

Title: EPIDURAL ANALGESIA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IN THE MATERNAL HEALTH IN A LOW PARITY COMUNITY

Version: 0 Date: 31 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Hui-xia Yang

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format. Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

(1) The aim of the paper was to determine the association between epidural analgesia and different mechanical complications affecting maternal health. The sample size was large, and the study population was described by epidural analgesia during labour. However, women who received epidural analgesia tended to be of lower parity than women who did not receive epidural analgesia. Whereas parity was found to be significant risk factor for severe perineal, caesarean, instrumental delivery and abnormal foetal head position at delivery. Thus we do recommend to have subgroup analysis according to the parity. Similarly, birth weight also a factor that affect the risk of severe perineal, caesarean, instrumental delivery and abnormal foetal head position at delivery, thus subgroup analysis according birth weight would also make sense.

(2) This manuscript needs to be carefully revised. For example: Methods Line 21: "caesarean section " should be "elective caesarean section"; Results Line 41 the number "51.6%" was wrong; Discussion Line 41 was incorrect.

(3) Introduction: authors introduce the term SPT for the first time; the word "severe perineal tears" should be used before using its abbreviation.

(4) The background should be better explained to present the strength and the importance of the study

(5) Please provide more details of women included in the study, i.e. "birth weight"
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?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal