Reviewer’s report

Title: Incidence and risk factors of Retinopathy of Prematurity in three neonatal intensive care units in Palestine

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2019

Reviewer: Graham E. Quinn

Reviewer's report:

The authors report a small series of ROP surveillance in 3 nurseries in Palestine. They find a similar incidence of ROP compared to countries with high levels of human development. This is a well-reasoned first look at ROP in Palestine.

General comments: the sample of 150 infants across 3 NICUs that likely have variation in care is quite small to provide insight into the validity of the conclusions on neonatal risk factors for ROP. Adding level of severity, if only treated/not treated would increase the usefulness of this work.

Specific comments:

Background:
Para 2, line 3 - suggest "unrestricted" rather than "intensive"
Para 2, line 6 - suggest "variability"
Para 2, last 2 sentences - awkward and should be reworked

Methods:
Para 1, lines 5-8 - these appear to be the US guidelines and that should be referenced

Results:
-neonatal characteristics
Para 1, line 2 - please check the analysis comparing yes/no ROP. <0.001 seems high
Para 1, 3rd sentence - awkward and could start with just the BW and include p value in parenthesis
Para 1, 5th sentence - though it is interesting to examine the sib-ships in this cohort, I would not provide all this non-standard approach in one sentence.

-neonatal co-morbidities and interventions - very small numbers make these analyses less compelling

Discussion:
This section is too long, but I really appreciate the sentiment in the first sentence of para 2. Would suggest condensing or eliminating the paragraphs starting with "Being a singleton..." and "The study found."

Limitations:
Please include the major limitation of a small number of subjects
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.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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