Reviewer's report

Title: Musculoskeletal sequel in patients with obstetric fistula - a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 29 July 2014

Reviewer: Hannah Kuper

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper, presenting the impact of obstetric fistula on musculoskeletal impairments. The study seems well designed, and this has been a neglected area of research.

I have some comments which the authors may wish to consider when revising the article:

Minor Essential Revisions:
- Information is needed in the methods as to who performed the examinations, and how they were trained and standardised.
- Please present the results on weight, height and BMI in the results.
- The results were not adjusted for age, and so the difference between cases and controls may have been due to confounding (though the age distribution was similar between these groups). It would be important to either adjust for age, or else to explain the potential impact of not having adjusted in the limitations section of the discussion.

Discretionary Revisions
- Page 5, line 109. This sentence is not clear to me.
- It would be helpful to explain how the cases were recruited to the hospital, if this is known. Was this through screening camps, or did the women present themselves?
- In the methods it states that the controls were matched to the cases on age and years since delivery, yet there were many more controls than cases and so this does not seem coherent to me.
- Did the live born neonates of any of the controls die in the first week of life (page 9, lines 202)?
- In the tables - i would suggest reporting result to one decimal place throughout (it varies a bit) P values should be presented to 2 significant figures.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: None