Reviewer’s report

Title: Distant and proximate factors associated with maternal near-miss: A nested case-control study in selected public hospitals of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 12 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Theo Nwankwo

Reviewer's report:

1. Title: Can you modify your title to reflect many other variables found to be significantly associated with maternal near miss mortality in this study, other than chronic hypertension and rural residence. I think that those factors were essentially risk factors as mist immediate causes of near miss such as PPI, uterine rupture, severe pre-eclampsia, etc were not part of studied or identified variables. These Findings can go for risk factors.

2. Methods:
   a. The criteria for hospital selection should be clearly stated.
      i. For example are there any specific number of deliveries needed?
      ii. Is availability of intensive unit a prerequisite?

3. Inclusion criteria:
   a. I suggest you modify the use of cohort of women, to for example Patients or women that met one of the WHO criteria for near miss maternal death from the study centres were enrolled

4. Selection of control:
   a. Why did you select only those that had vaginal delivery? Caesarean delivery is not one of the criteria that defines near miss mortality and they were not excluded in the cases.

5. Sample size.: the study population size was adequate. Though I had expected that computing for sample size with the stated parameters into the Epi info software would give me the same figure but I got a small sample size. Please cross check.
6. Development of Questionnaires:
   a. I expect that some of the data sought by the questionnaire should be stated. Was the questionnaire validated since you derived it and if so how? Please state.

7. Data analysis:
   a. You made reference to literature review twice in this section, but I suggest you focus on independent factors as identified in your studied population. Example. The independent variables identified in these patients were grouped into Distant and proximate factors.
   
b. I thought that the proximate causes would be the clinical conditions and complications in the pregnancy that led to the near miss maternal mortality. E.g. PPH. Eclampsia etc but those were not mentioned or sought for in this study. It may be pertinent to state such if you have the data.

8. Tables:
   a. Table one should be adapted and made part of the methods as criteria for inclusion.

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**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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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