Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychosocial factors that mediate the association between mode of birth and maternal postnatal adjustment: findings from a population-based survey

Version: 0 Date: 31 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Lauren Carson

Reviewer's report:

This paper examining the association between the mode of birth and maternal postnatal adjustment. It is an important scientific area which is worthy of further investigation.

My main comments are:

- Were potential participants excluded if the infant had a serious medical problem or condition (e.g. genetic disorder or cerebral palsy)?
- Was there any measure of paternal/social support? If so was this adjusted for?
- The abstract would benefit from a slight amendment to emphases that this study showed an association with unplanned CS rather than CS in general. A planned and unplanned CS are under very different circumstances and this is not highlighted in the abstract or explained in detail in the main manuscript.

My recommendations for minor amendments are listed below:

Line 176, 191 & 194 - The tables here might need amending as they are not easy to take in - however this may be amended once formatted for the publication.

Line 264 - please can the authors confirm that the association between maternal age and mode of birth was not moderated by social economic status.

Line 290 - Please define what is meant by Infant Health

Line 355 - was the mental health of the mothers examined with regard to methodological limitations? Was there a different rate of questionnaire response if the mother experienced mental health problems?

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

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

Acceptable

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