Reviewer’s report

Title: DECIDE: A cluster-randomized controlled trial to reduce unnecessary caesarean deliveries in Burkina Faso

Version: 0 Date: 12 Feb 2019

Reviewer: George Justus Hofmeyr

Reviewer's report:
The authors are to be commended on undertaking a well-designed study on an important topic.

Because the primary outcome is a 'soft' outcome subject to some degree of subjectivity, it would be useful to have more detail on how exactly the outcome was determined, and what steps were taken to avoid bias.

It is most unfortunate that data on overall perinatal mortality were not available to reassure readers that reduced CS were not at the expense of increased overall perinatal mortality.

In the abstract it would be useful to define unnecessary CS, and steps taken to avoid bias in the determination of this outcome.

In the abstract it would be useful to indicate that overall perinatal mortality data were not available

P27 line 35 box 1, perhaps comment on the fact that the recommended fetal resuscitation included oxygen and did not include tocolysis.

Table 2, perhaps comment on the observation that in both the intervention and the control groups the numbers of CS for fetal distress appeared to decrease after the intervention and for labour dystocia to increase.

Minor points
Line 53: suggest 'long-standing'
Line 141, suggest 'meetings'

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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