Reviewer’s report

Title: The trend of caesarean birth rate changes in China after ‘universal two-child policy’ era: A population-based study in 2013-2018

Version: 0 Date: 27 Feb 2020

Reviewer: Handong Li

Reviewer's report:

This paper analyzes the trend of caesarean delivery rate in 2011-2018, and represents some indicators, such as crude rate, standardized rate, and marginal effects of year, by participants' residential registering type and regions of provinces, respectively. And the author discusses the possible reasons for the change of caesarean delivery rate. The population-based data used in the analysis are from NFPCP related questionnaires, and two rounds of follow-up interviews.

Comments
1) Based on the empirical data, the author gives a brief descriptive analysis, such as the annual changes of caesarean delivery rate. Although the author lists the relevant variables collected in the data, which are represented in part of 'Covariates', but the paper lacks a specific discussion of the correlations or quantitative analysis between covariates and caesarean delivery rate. Therefore, it maybe make the conclusion more complete with a further analysis of the correlations mentioned above.

2) Some of the conclusions in this paper is vague, such as the impact of 'universal two-child policy' on the change of caesarean delivery rate. The author does not explain how the policy affected the rate of caesarean delivery. Has the policy influenced the proportion of women with uterine scar, or has it increased the number of women who have a willingness to have a second child? We cannot find a clear answer in this paper. Add details to the point will make the conclusion more reliable.

3) In the part of 'Statistical analysis', the author calculates the crude rate using data from NFPCP study which mainly targeted participants from rural areas in which the caesarean delivery rate was relatively lower. While the author uses age structure from 1% national population sample survey in 2015 to standardize caesarean delivery rate. Are there characteristics of age-specific crude rate from NFPCP consistent with the national age-specific rate? Is there any adjustment to this problem in the process of standardization?

4) There are some typing errors in the manuscript. For eg. Page 22, line 6, wrong reference number: …from 9.8% to 17.7%(9)...

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.

Unable to assess

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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

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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