Reviewer’s report

Title: A cluster-randomized field trial to reduce cesarean section rates with a multifaceted intervention in Shanghai, China

Version: 0 Date: 29 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Manuel Vallejo

Reviewer's report:

BMED-D-19-01548

The authors carried out a cluster-randomized field trial with a multifaceted intervention in Shanghai, China, from 2015 to 2017. A total of 20 hospitals were randomly allocated into an intervention or a control group by the data management group. The intervention group consisted of targeted multifaceted intervention including more targeted prenatal health education, improved hospital CS policy, and training of doulas and midwives for eight months. The primary outcome was the changes of overall CS rate from the pre-intervention to the post-intervention period. The intervention did not significantly reduce the CS rate in Shanghai, China.

Comments
1. Page 7, line 132 - what were the components of the baseline survey? What questions were asked?
2. Page 7, line 144 - what specifically was the previous research?
3. Discussion - since you had a non-effect with your intervention(s), what would you do or recommend for future studies? You imply the government intervention is needed to effect meaningful change; would you elicit government intervention in the future to decrease the cesarean section rate? Would you target Obstetricians in the future?
4. Table 5 - please discuss why artificial rupture of the membranes is significant in the results section?

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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