Reviewer's report

Title: Socio-cultural factors, gender roles and religious ideologies contributing to Caesarian-section refusal in Nigeria

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Reviewer: Jane Harries

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Minor Essential Revisions

Title: Socio-cultural factors, gender roles and religious ideologies contributing to Caesarian-section refusal in Nigeria

This is a well written article and the authors can be commended. The qualitative analysis is comprehensive and integrates the issues raised in a detailed and insightful manner.

1. My only concern is with the quantitative section. The sample size is small and collected over a short period of time. The key problem is that the link to maternal mortality in relation to not obtaining a CS cannot be convincingly made. The missing data as to reasons why a CS was indicated or received is a problem in terms of making that link.

2. Suggest that check that first time an abbreviation is introduced it is spelt out eg TBA on page 4 & NPC on page 6

Also ensure that the reference style of the Journal is consistent – in both the text and in the reference list. At the moment it is not.

3. Table 2: Delivery data: the missing data on refusal and Emergency CS is problematic - only provides a % of CS, is this the norm? – no convincing relationship between maternal mortality and refusal of CS.

The prospective data (Table 3) is for 1 month only and thus not truly representative and not a large enough sample to be convincing.

4. The biggest gap is what were the indications for CS – this could explain refusal – was it for serious medical reasons or was it for other reasons such as financially motivated on the part of health care providers or medically unnecessary CS as reported in other countries including developing countries with a private health care system. As indicated that there are often economic motives why husbands would not support a CS (extract 14)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'