Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential excess of vaginal examinations during the management of labor: frequency and associated factors in 13 Peruvian hospitals

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Pankhuri Sharma

Reviewer's report:

Background Section

1. It is suggested to mention the number of VE and has been considered on the higher side in other studies which have assessed the association with an increased risk of infection or fever, pain, discomfort, embarrassment, dissatisfaction with intrapartum care and post-traumatic stress syndrome? Furthermore, what was the criteria to consider high number of VE in these studies?

2. It has been mentioned that 'excessive number of VE during labor has been assessed in previous studies': where these studies were conducted? Are these studies mostly from low resource settings? Were there any differences in terms of excessive number of VE in low and high resource settings?

3. What were the factors that were found to be associated with excessive VE in other studies?

Methods section:

1. Context section can be renamed as 'settings'

2. The collection of VE data was done through an interview in which the postpartum women were asked about the number of VE performed in total during labor: what was done to verify the accuracy of information provided by these post-partum women?

3. In current pregnancy related variables complication of any kind should also have been included. Some other variables which can be deemed important what kind of health performing the the delivery of women in the hospital? And was there any family/friend present with women during delivery? Also, do authors think including reproductive history related variables would have been useful?

4. Information on average number of women in general who arrived in advanced labour in these hospitals previously would have been very useful in discussing the results.
5. It is suggested to include any information if taken, from health personnel in these hospitals involved in process of assessing the progress of delivery and conducting VE. This information can be corroborated with results and help in building discussion.

Discussion:

1. Need to cite more recent literature especially from countries with similar health settings as Peru

Conclusion: It is mentioned that 'This suggests irregular following of guidelines recommendations regarding the frequency of VE during labor'. can this statement be concluded when authors have clearly mentioned in the limitation section that there is no information about the length of labor spent in the hospital and no clinical information to evaluate if VE were necessary or unnecessary for labor management

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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