Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of antenatal education in small classes on obstetric and psycho-social outcomes - a systematic review

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Adrienne Stevens,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to resubmit our manuscript ‘The effect of antenatal education in small classes on obstetric and psycho-social outcomes – a systematic review’ (ref.nr 5817652331359375) for publication in Systematic Reviews. We appreciate your proposed suggestions for changes to the manuscript and have revised the manuscript according to these suggestions. All revisions in the manuscript are highlighted with 'track changes'.

Referee 2 raised this comment:

"The inclusion of models that provided care as well as education (eg Ickovics trial on CenteringPregnancy). I still do not think this is antenatal education per se. The authors state that the heterogeneity of the trails was a problem but adding group antenatal care in adds to this problem. I am still not convinced that they needed to have been included."

In line with our response in the last review process we would still like to keep this study included if this is acceptable to you. Our previous response was : “Thank you for this comment. In the eligibility criteria we have stated: “The experimental conditions in the included trials must be delivered as an antenatal educational program offered by an educator to groups consisting of more than one individual/couple and less than 20 persons, related to delivery and/or preparation for parenthood”. In the trial by Ickovics they state that “The majority of time is spent with women and clinicians engaging in discussion, education, and skills building to address explicit learning objectives in prenatal care, child birth preparation, and postpartum and parenting roles”. We therefore consider this trial relevant for inclusion in the review.”

We believe that the given study falls within our predefined inclusion criteria and therefore hope that our former response to the reviewer regarding this issue is sufficient.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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