

Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in caesarean section and instrumental deliveries in relation to Body Mass Index: a clinical survey during 1978 - 2001

Version: 1 **Date:** 10 June 2010

Reviewer: ellika andolf

Reviewer's report:

1. This paper deals with rate of cesarean delivery and instrumental deliveries over a time span in overweight women. It is already well known that these women have a higher rate of operative deliveries (OD). If this has varied over the years is to my knowledge not known.
2. The methods are adequate apart from my comments below.
3. Data are well controlled.
4. The manuscript adheres to relevant standards.
5. Discussion and conclusions see below
6. Title is ok. Abstract see below
7. Writing see below

The main result of this study is that the rate of OD has increased in this group of women recently. The rate is only interesting if we know why. In order to answer that question the author have to report indications for the ODs. Has there been a shift in the willingness to perform caesarean section? In other words did we do the caesarean section for other reasons in 1980 as compared to 2001? Since this is a small and well controlled study this information is probably available. Also has the number of women with very high BMI increased? Is that the reason why the rates are increasing? The addition of these data would increase the value of the study.

The authors have controlled for several factors. The most important factor : sociodemographic factors is not controlled for. Is that possible?

According to the results section the OR for caesarean is higher in 1992 (3.78) than in 2001 (2.78). This is not in line with the authors conclusion? In Figure 1 it can be seen that the difference in rate of caesarean section between women with BMI <20 and BMI > 25 is greatest in 1992. Why is this particular year then chosen? Why are women with a BMI < 20 chosen as the reference?

The total no of caesareans are not equal in table 1 and 2. Have patients been excluded?

The article is bit difficult to grasp in certain places. Correction by an English speaking person may be of help.

If all these queries are answered and the above changes are made I think the article would be of value to publish.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.