

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	Young Adolescent Girls are at High Risk for Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa: an Observational Multi-Country Study
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Mombo-Ngoma, Ghyslain; Mackanga, Jean Rodolphe; Gonzalez, Raquel; Ouedraogo, Smaila; Kakolwa, Mwaka; Zoleko Manego, Rella; Basra, Arti; Rupérez, Maria; Cot, Michel; Kabanywany, Abdunoor; Matsiegui, Pierre Blaise; Agnandji, Selidji; Vala, Anifa; Massougbdji, Achille; Abdulla, Salim; Adegnika, Ayola; Sevene, Esperanca; Macete, Eusebio; Yazdanbakhsh, Maria; Kremsner, Peter; Aponte, John; Menendez, Clara; Ramharter, Michael

### VERSION 1 - REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	PANAGIOTIS TSIKOURAS DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE ,GREECE
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	15-Mar-2016

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	WELL WRITTEN
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Silvia Iacobelli MD, PhD Centre d'Etudes Périnatales de l'Océan Indien (EA7388) CHU LA Réunion, Site Sud, Saint Pierre (France)
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	27-Mar-2016

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>This is a very well conducted analysis on this cohort recruited in a clinical trial, and results on adolescent pregnancies are interesting. Minor remarks</p> <p>In the first part of the results section, authors should give more detail on the characteristics of the patients lost or withdrawn from follow up</p> <p>In the conclusion authors state that young adolescent pregnant women constitute an easily identifiable patient population amenable to targeted antenatal care programs. However, it is not clear in the present study which are the risk factors for adolescent mothers that should be targeted in antenatal programs as none appears in the results. This point should be pointed out as a limitation of the present study.</p>
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### VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Results section:

More details on the characteristics of the patients lost or withdrawn have been given in the first part of the results section as per reviewer's request.

The following changes were made:

"Among those 361 (7.6%) were lost or withdrawn before delivery, with 79 (22%) adolescents, 237 (66%) women aged between 20 and 30 years and 45 (12%) women aged 31 year or more. There was no significant difference observed in baseline characteristics between the women lost or withdrawn from the study and those considered in the analysis for this study (supplementary Figure 1)."

For illustration, a supplementary figure was added that compares baseline characteristics of the dataset with only singleton live births (N=4100) with the full dataset (N=4749).

Conclusion section:

In the present study we consider young maternal age (young adolescent mothers) as a risk factor for low birth weight or preterm delivery. From our findings we show that young adolescent girls experience significantly more adverse pregnancy outcomes than their older counterpart. Therefore we consider that adolescents on their own might be targeted in antenatal programs, with the advantage that they constitute an easily identifiable group. No change made.

If considered as stated above, young maternal age itself being the risk factor studied, we assume it may not be needed to address this as a limitation as suggested by the reviewer. No change made