Reviewer's report

Title: A survey of physicians knowledge regarding awareness of maternal alcohol use and the diagnosis of FAS.

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Reviewer: Dr Jocelynn Cook

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This study was designed to 1) evaluate the experience, knowledge, and confidence of family physicians with respect to the diagnosis and FAS and 2) to evaluate physician's awareness of maternal drinking patterns.

Results suggested that physician confidence was low and physicians and not aware of the current screening methodologies to accurately gauge alcohol use in pregnant and childbearing women.

This study lends important information about the awareness and education of physicians with respect to FAS in the greater Toronto area. It is simply, yet well-designed. The data are surprising and clearly suggest that significant actions must be taken to improve physicians' knowledge about FAS.

Discretionary (yet significant)Revisions:
1. It is suggested that the authors speculate on awareness among pediatricians.
2. Comments with respect to FAE could be made, as well as suggestions for combating the current weaknesses in physician education and awareness. For example, UBC has begun to integrate unit on FAS/FAE into their medical school curriculum.......;

Overall, the paper does make a significant contribution to Canada’ FAS literature. There are a number of typos.

Competing interests:

None declared.