Reviewer's report

Title: Reproductive life disorders in Italian celiac women. A case-control study.

Version: 1 Date: 22 January 2010

Reviewer: Eyal Sheiner

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This study was aimed to explore the association between celiac disease and menstrual cycle, gestation and puerperal disorders.

1. I strongly advise the authors to consult an epidemiologist. Since celiac here was the exposure and not the outcome, this is a cohort study and not a clear case-control (such as studies investigating risk factors for preterm labor for example).

2. Also, there are mistakes in the results: for example the OR for amenorrhea is NOT 33, and the 95% CI is NOT 7.17-151.8, but rather the OR is 10.9; 95% CI 3.1-42.2, P<0.001!!!!!

3. I recommend consulting with Obstetricians, since the lower weight at birth is actually birthweight etc.

4. The tables should be revised: Table 2: why do we need the "no" line? Just put the complications (amenorrhea etc). Every reader can than calculate the "no" if he wishes to do so…

5. Is 49 years old or even 45 years old part of the "childbearing ages"???

6. No need to repeat the results of the tables in the results section.

7. The first sentence of the abstract should be deleted.

8. Use actual p values and not bigger than 0.05. P=0.06 and P=0.999 are both bigger than 0.05 but give different illustration of the results.

9. English needs revision by a native speaker.

10. Several studies exist regarding this issue, which surprisingly were not included in the discussion and introduction of this study. The study of Sheiner et al (Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol. 2006 Nov;129(1):41-5. ) found higher rates of IUGR, and in a subsequent article (Arch Gynecol Obstet. 2009 Jan;279(1):1-3.) whether screening for celiac is necessary. Nevertheless, these studies were not even mentioned by the authors.

11. Discussion is too long and unfocused.