Reviewer’s report

Title: Immunomodulatory factors in cervicovaginal secretions from pregnant and non-pregnant women: A cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Brenna Anderson

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present a cross-sectional study examining the relationship between immune factors and pregnancy. The study is fairly small and performed many comparisons, which limits the ability to draw conclusions from the data presented. I have the following comments.

1. The last 2 sentences of the background do not belong in this section.

2. Methods: Did the authors collect information regarding the time within the menstrual cycle as it relates to collection of samples. In addition to changes in immune function related to pregnancy, it has also been shown that immune functions change across the cycle.

3. Why did the authors use PBS for their CVL rather than normal saline?

4. The authors report that they have used a Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons. This may be worth discussion with a statistician. My understanding is that with a large number of comparisons such as in this case, a number of corrections must be made. What are the details of the use of Bonferroni here? Was a sample size calculation performed a priori?

5. Results: There are more headings than necessary here.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.