Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal thyroid function and the outcome of external cephalic version: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 8 October 2010

Reviewer: J van Dillen

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript from Kuppens and colleagues titled Maternal thyroid function and the outcome of ECV: a prospective cohort study, is an interesting article which deserves to be published.

However, the clinical importance of the study needs further research and needs to be determined. This might lead to numerous new and interesting articles from this group: do we need to screen for TSH with breech presentation? What about dietary intake and supplementation? Precise mechanism of action?

Major Compulsory Revisions:
- none

Minor Essential Revisions:
- The recent BMC study from the USA evaluated the cost effectiveness of ECV from society’s perspective, concluding that if probability of successful ECV is < 32%, it is not cost effective. In your reference you state QALY’s for the patient: and this is a big difference! in my opinion, pregnancy and delivery as a life event is more than just societies money and short term (<12 weeks) QALY and a low probability for the individual patient can still have a major impact for the mode of delivery and future pregnancies (not included in the QALY model)!!! I would delete this reference.

Discretionary Revisions:
- Background; also the Dutch Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists advice to perform ECV. However the uptake of these recommendations are poor and an implementation study to evaluate the barriers to ECV in the Netherlands is planned (BMC 2010)
- Methods; when was this study undertaken? Was this the same sample as presented in the other paper (clinical endocrin august 2010)? Or was this study initiated after that one? (was it truly a prospective study? Or retrospective after prospective collected data?)
- Discussion: interesting discussion concerning different mechanisms. Although impaired neuromotor development might arguable be related to higher breech presentations, I do not see how it could hinder ECV outcome.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests