Reviewer's report

Title: Adverse birth outcomes among native-born and foreign-born mothers in Taiwan: A population-based birth cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 27 June 2012

Reviewer: Lai-Chu See

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. lack of a good discussion on how the effect of family SES on newborns' health: Why there are higher odds ratio (ORs) of low birth weight and preterm birth for family income with higher income among the immigrant despite of its insignificant. I suspect that such insignificant is just due to small sample size for the immigrant group.
2. wrongly use Bonferroni correction (Table 1, 2): you can’t correct the p-value based on Bonferroni correction but you can correct the significant level using Bonferroni correction.

Minor essential revisions:
1. strange wordings:
   (1) These men “must” address Asian cultural tradition…(p.3, last para., line 3) # delete “must”
   (2) “Some” studies have shown greater positive birth outcome…(p. 4, last para., line 1)# “One study”.. because there is only one reference.
   (3) “correlation” between socioeconomic…(p. 5, para. 2, line 4) #“association”…, because correlation means linear relationship statistically.
   (4) “statistically nonsignificant”… (p. 12, para. 1, line 9) #”insignificant”
   (5) …. Differences in culture and behavior during pregnancy may exist (p.14, para. 1, line 2)# … pregnancy “between the two maternal groups”..,should be added

2. Strange logic:
   (1) Because paternal and maternal education are highly correlated (r=0.60), we used family income to represent family SES (p.7, last para., last two lines).

3. References needed:
   (1) Bonferroni correction (p.8, para. 1, line 7)
   (2) Taiwan’s references for epidemiologic paradox on newborns are needed (p.13, para. 1, line3-5).

4. English editing is still needed.
5. Abstract

(1) Background: Socioeconomic status (SES) of the family on newborn’s health should be emphasized rather than epidemiological paradox of newborns among foreign-born mothers in Taiwan as there are many previous reports on epidemiological paradox of newborns among foreign-born mothers in Taiwan.

(2) Results: Preterm birth rates for the two mother groups are needed. The “adjusted” odds ratios should be added.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

none of the above