Reviewer’s report

Title: Elevated maternal lipids in early pregnancy are not associated with risk of intrapartum caesarean in overweight and obese nulliparous women

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Reviewer: OFFER EREZ

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Elevated maternal lipids in early pregnancy are not associated with risk of intra-partum caesarean in overweight and obese nulliparous women

The manuscript by Fyfe et al is well written and presents important information regarding the success of a vaginal delivery in overweight and obese nulliparous women. Moreover, the authors took a step forward and try to use the measurement of maternal serum cholesterol concentrations as predictors to the success of vaginal delivery. The manuscript is well written and can be accepted for publication after the authors will address the following items:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I would like to suggest the authors to perform a separate analysis for obese and overweight patients.

2. In table 1 if we subtract 2 standard deviations from the mean BMI value of the cesarean group the value will be 18, which is a BMI of a lean person. This suggests that the BMI values are not normally distributed and non-parametric statistics should be used for this analysis.

3. Women in the cesarean group were shorter had a higher BMI and a larger proportion of large for gestational age fetuses than those who delivered vaginally. The interaction between these parameters is not so clear especially when the birthweight is not included in the logistic regression model. It is also possible to include the estimated fetal weight at admission to delivery. Another question that may need to be addressed is the association between mid trimester cholesterol concentrations and estimated fetal weight at admission to delivery.

4. In spite of the non significant difference between the study groups in maternal serum cholesterol concentration, I would like to suggest the authors to test whether there is a cut off value that above it the risk for cesarean increases substantially.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest