Reviewer's report

Title: First Trimester PAPP-A Levels Correlate with sFlt-1 Levels Longitudinally in Pregnant Women with and without Preeclampsia

Version: 1 Date: 19 November 2012

Reviewer: Jimmy Espinoza

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1) Study design: The authors indicate that this is a prospective study. However, the study excluded women with pregnancy complications other than preeclampsia. Since this can be done only after knowing the pregnancy outcome, the study appears to have a nested case-control design

2) What was the basis for the number of patients included in the study? Was there a power calculation? The study clearly appears to be underpowered for the evaluation of early-onset preeclampsia

3) Angiogenic imbalances early in pregnancy are substantially different among women who develop early- vs. late-onset preeclampsia. A sub-analysis in early- and late-onset preeclampsia is encouraged to improve the value of the manuscript

4) Can the author indicate if a low PAPP-A level in the first trimester had an additive value to the angiogenic factors in the identification of women at increased risk for preeclampsia? When performing the logistic regression as the PAPP-A level independent from the other angiogenic factors? If PAPP-A was not independent, what is the value of knowing that PAPP-A value in the first trimester correlates with that of angiogenic factors?

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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'