Reviewer's report

Title: Elastography in predicting preterm delivery in asymptomatic, low-risk women: a prospective observational study.

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Reviewer: Edgar Hernandez Andrade

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Comments on the paper Elastography in predicting preterm delivery in asymptomatic, low-risk women: a prospective observational study; by Slawomir WOZNIAK et al.

The authors evaluated 333 patients at 18-24 weeks of gestation using ultrasound elastography and evaluated the rate of cervical shortening until 30 weeks of gestation and the association with preterm delivery. They conclude that a soft cervix is highly associated with spontaneous preterm delivery <37 weeks of gestation.

Major Compulsory Revisions

This is categorical definition of the degree of stiffness/softness of the cervix using four colors; In my opinion the reader will benefit if the following explanations are included in the document:

How reproducible is this color code method?
Which is the Kappa value for assigning the same color code by different operators?
How the operators decide which the best image for evaluation is?
According to Table 1 there were no cases with short cervix; do the authors have any comment on this?
Was there any association with cervical length?
The results show that most of women delivering before term had a soft internal os at 18 weeks of gestation. The false positive rate was very low as only 3 from 27 patients considered as having a soft cervix did not deliver prematurely. This is very impressive as many other factors can be associated with preterm delivery or complications appearing during pregnancy can also end in a spontaneous preterm delivery. How was the association with preterm delivery before 32 or 30 weeks of gestation?

Elastography is certainly an emerging technique that can provide useful information for cervical evaluation; however, when no quantitative measurements are used, it is important to provide evidence that the qualitative analysis can be reproducible.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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