Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening models for early detection of late-onset preeclampsia with various markers in low-risk pregnant population

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2013

Reviewer: Geralyn Lambert-Messerlian

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have taken advantage of existing serum samples from prenatal screening for Down syndrome, and added additional later sample collections in order to examine many different marker combinations to predict late onset preeclampsia. This manuscript reflects careful and extensive work.

Major compulsory revisions

1. It is concerning, and perhaps statistically invalid, that only 8 cases of late onset preeclampsia are included. The authors are encouraged to continue to build on their efforts and recruit additional patients.

2. The Discussion section must address the fact that these late onset cases of preeclampsia, occurring at the time of delivery, are less clinically concerning than early onset disease. Delivery is a reasonable and effective "treatment" for late-onset preeclampsia.

Discretionary revision

The title refers to a study of markers in "low risk" women but it is not clear that all high risk women have been removed. For example, primiparous women are at higher risk for preeclampsia than others, as are women of Black race, etc. Perhaps the term "general population" may be more accurate than "low risk population"?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have had prior research support from Beckman Coulter Inc.