Comment
Title: Alcohol consumption during pregnancy and birth outcomes: the Kyushu Okinawa Maternal and Child Health Study
Summary:
This paper reports on the relation between maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the risk of low birth weight (LBW), preterm birth (PTB) and small for gestational age (SGA). No associations were found between maternal alcohol intake during pregnancy and LBW and SGA. The risk of PTB was increased in women who consumed 1 gram of alcohol and more per day.

Abstract:
1. Results: The authors should only focus on the key findings of the paper (Minor Essential Revisions).

Background:
2. Why should one investigate the association between alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the pregnancy outcomes despite the fact that there is a multiplicity of studies that investigated this association previously? What can this study add to the research state? The single “novelty” that the authors emphasize is that this is the first study in Japan on the association between alcohol intake during pregnancy and perinatal outcomes. The literature research was obviously not very carefully as there are a couple of studies from Japan reporting on these associations, such as Ogawa et al., 1991, Sasaki et al., 2006, etc. (Major compulsory revision)

Methods:
3. Measurements: The authors should report here on the measurement of the independent variables, the dependent variable and the confounders. Everything else belongs to the description of the study. (Major compulsory revision)
4. There is no precise information on the alcohol intake variable. How was alcohol intake during pregnancy assessed? Can the authors provide the question from the questionnaire and the answer categories? (Major compulsory revision)
5. Birth weight and LBW are measures of SGA, thus birth weight and LBW are
superfluous measures in this context. (Major compulsory revision)

Statistical analyses:
6. The measurement of alcohol consumption during pregnancy is not part of the statistical analyses and should be described in the measurements section. (Major compulsory revision). 7. The category of alcohol intake seems to be very arbitrary. Can the authors provide references or reasonable justifications for this classification with <\#/ 1 gram per day (please consider that a standard glass of beer, for example, contains already 10.0 grams of pure alcohol). How did the authors measure 1 gram/day?? This is a main variable and it has to be described in very much detail! (Major compulsory revision!!)
8. The classification of the variables is not part of the statistical analyses! (Major compulsory revision)

Results:
9. Can the authors provide references for the classification of heavy drinkers on > 14 grams per day?
10. The authors tested interactions between alcohol and smoking but did not mention any hypothesis with respect to the interactions. (Major compulsory revision)

Discussion:
11. The authors did not discuss potential explanations for their results on the associations between alcohol intake during pregnancy and SGA and LBW. Also, the discussion of the literature is not very well developed. (Major compulsory revision)

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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.