Reviewer's report

Title: Antidepressant use during pregnancy and potential neonatal adverse effects: Impact of a public health advisory and subsequent reports in the news media.

Version: 1 Date: 28 April 2005

Reviewer: Vivien Burt

General

This is an excellent, interesting paper on a topic that is of great practical importance to clinicians who take care of pregnant patients. It addresses a subject that is not often addressed in the literature...how actual pregnant women react to media press releases. The paper, as noted by the authors, makes observations based on a "convenience sample", but nevertheless since these are women who actually called the Motherisk Program, they represent the voice of women who worry enough to call such a program to gain true and correct knowledge. It is interesting to see that a number of the women had long since given birth but were so residually worried about the impact of having taken antidepressants during a prior pregnancy that they called the Program for reassurance. It is also important to note that a number of the women had already discontinued their antidepressant or discontinued it shortly after conferring with the Motherisk program, attesting to the influence of the media, despite the evidence suggesting that untreated depression is detrimental to health of mother and baby. I have made relatively minor comments (see below) but I recommend publication of this paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Abstract: "Results" change "Seven misunderstand the advisor ie their child was" to "their children were"

Results: Second paragraph: change the first sentence to read "The following results underscore" (omit the "s" of underscores).
Second paragraph fifth sentence; "This latter group of understood that these adverse effects were long in nature". This sentence is unclear. Authors must clarify and correct the sentence.
Second paragraph seventh sentence...."Table 2 is inserted after this sentence...not clear why the indication for Table 2 is in this place.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

Yes. I am on speakers' bureau for Lilly and GSK which have manufactured antidepressants often used in pregnancy. I am also on advisory boards for these companies.