Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated Antiphospholipid Antibody Titers and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes: Analysis of a Population-Based Hospital Dataset

Version: 1 Date: 29 November 2008

Reviewer: Robert Silver

Reviewer's report:

This is an epidemiologic study of a Florida statewide hospital database confirming an association between antiphospholipid syndrome and preeclampsia, SLE, placental insufficiency, and prolonged length of stay. Strengths of the study include the use of a large database and a thoughtful discussion. Discretionary revisions include:

1. The study design includes tremendous inherent bias which should be clearly outlined in the paper. Only women with adverse pregnancy outcomes, SLE or thrombosis will be tested for antiphospholipid antibodies. Healthy women were not tested. Thus, one would highly anticipate the observed associations.
2. Were the women included in the study treated with heparin? This should be included in multivariate analysis.
3. The authors describe the study as exploratory, yet the same findings have been reported in numerous other studies.
4. The one semi-novel feature of the study is the ability to assess the "demographic and epidemiologic profile" of patients with antiphospholipid antibodies. However, this is glossed over in the results. A focus on these issues would be a contribution.
5. Were any Florida deliveries not included in the database (federal hospitals)?
6. Prior pregnancy outcomes are a major potential confounder that should be included in models or described as a limitation. The same is true for thrombosis.
7. Confounders should be assessed for all outcomes, not just preeclampsia.
8. The conclusion starts from the data presented. If the journal's format is to include a review of the literature as well as new research this may be appropriate.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.