Reviewer's report

**Title:** Brain iron accumulation in unexplained fetal and infant death victims with smoker mothers - The possible involvement of maternal methemoglobinemia

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**Reviewer:** Inderjeet Dokal

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This is an interesting study which shows brain iron accumulation in unexplained fetal/neonatal death victims with smoker mothers compared to those whose mothers' were not smokers.

The iron stain studies are convincing that there is accumulation of iron in the various figures shown. However what is not definitive from these studies is whether the iron accumulation is in neurons or in other cells such as macrophages. As highlighted by reviewer 2 this question can only be resolved by using specific stains for neurons. In my view the significant observation is the demonstration of iron accumulation in the brains of victims whose mothers' were smokers. It would be helpful if the authors were to just highlight this point in the paper.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None