Reviewer's report

Title: Association between altered placental human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) production and the occurrence of cryptorchidism: a retrospective study

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Reviewer: John Hutson

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Association between altered placental human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG) production and the occurrence of cryptorchidism: a retrospective study.

This is an interesting retrospective study, taking advantage of the French screening for Down syndrome at the beginning of the 2nd trimester.

The authors went back and compared the levels of hCG and a-fetoprotein at the time of the test with the subsequent appearance of undescended testes in 51 boys versus 306 controls. The showed that hCG was significantly lower at the end of the first 1st trimester in the boys with cryptorchidism compared with the controls, although a-fetoprotein levels were similar.

The paper well written, although the authors have missed the fact that there is a new convention in English for naming of syndromes so that there is no longer use of an apostrophe “s”. The reference to Down syndrome should be corrected accordingly.

In the 11st paragraph of the results the word associated is spelt incorrectly. In line 141 in the 1st part of the Discussion hypospadias is spelt incorrectly. Apart from these very trivial corrections I thought this was very interesting paper and deserves publication.