Reviewer's report

Title: Associations between preterm birth, small-for-gestational age, and neonatal morbidity and cognitive function among school-age children in Nepal

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2013

Reviewer: Andreas Beyerlein

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors should consider adjustment for multiple testing, e.g. by Bonferroni’s correction.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract:

1. Please give the exact number of participants.
2. The authors should be consistent in giving either SE or SD.

Background:

3. Please spell out IUGR.
4. "Anthropometric measurements were done in the home where a majority of the births were assessed." The meaning of this sentence is unclear to me.
5. "A socioeconomic index was created using household asset ownership which ranged from 0-11." As this may be a crucial confounder, more information should be given about this index.
6. "The MABC test scores failures and higher scores reflect worse performance." Can this sentence be made clearer?

Results:

7. "... child diet as reflected by 7-day food frequency data was inadequate". What is considered as adequate / inadequate diet?
8. "The unadjusted differences were significant..." It might be more appropriate to speak of regression coefficients, as head circumference was treated as a continuous variable.

Discussion:

9. "We also examined the neurocognitive outcomes in those born very preterm..." This should be mentioned in methods and results, e.g. as a sensitivity analysis, and the n should be given in table 1.
10. Why is different mortality in SGA and preterm likely to be relevant for the outcomes examined here?
Discretionary Revisions

Abstract:
1. I think it is not necessary to define SGA in the abstract.

Methods:
2. Does this mean there were 426 geographical clusters? This information could probably be left out anyway.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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