Reviewer's report

Title: A prospective study of weight development and behavior problems in toddlers: the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study

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Reviewer: Anita Chandra

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors:

This article builds on a useful data set to examine an important public health issue, with the benefit of prospective analytic approaches. The analytic elements are generally sound. I have a few edits mainly on the underlying arguments for the work, which should be addressed:

1) The literature review would benefit from some type of conceptual framework or model whereby the prospective association of overweight and subsequent (or precursor) behavioral problems could be outlined to accompany text. Though you make this reference later in the conclusions, I would put more discussion of the limitations of these hypotheses in younger samples. Further, what is the role of parenting/family eating behaviors and attitudes? That would seem to make more a difference for the younger set who are reliant on moms more. Thus the hypotheses framework may have holes upon which your later null findings can be explained.

Also, what is the rate of overweight among this age group. Is the argument that based on lifespan trajectories or is there a concern about infant overweight? If so, state that and provide numbers.

2) In the methods explanation, I may have missed it but what family or maternal demographics and BMI characteristics were included in models? I see maternal BMI was collected at each time point, but what other variables beyond educations? Could it not be that there other factors that explain an association between infant BMI and behavioral problems? More explanation of inclusion or reasons for exclusion are useful here.

3) How accurate is mother copied information on weight and height from charts? Any concerns there?

4) What was the correlation between mother’s BMI and child's BMI?

5) In the discussion, more consideration about other outcomes (not measured) that could relate to infant or young child BMI is useful. I am not convinced that these symptoms would emerge so young primarily when eating behavior is mother/family defined. Please expand more on this beyond simply stating the lack of hypothesis fit.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.