Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between infection early in life and the risk of mental disorders among youth in the community: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 12 October 2010

Reviewer: Robert yolken

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting report describing an association between a self-report of maternal infections and the occurrence of a range of psychiatric abnormalities in the offspring. The hypothesis of the study is clearly stated and the report is well written. Also, the limitations of this type of study and the need for replication are clearly delineated.

Major Revisions:

1. The variables employed in the logistic regression analyses should be clearly delineated. Also, it appears as if it is the unadjusted odds ratios which are presented. If so, this should be changed so it is the adjusted odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals which are presented.

2. Were there any data available concerning factors which might co-vary with infection, including maternal diet, weight gain during pregnancy, and medication usage? If so, the effects of these factors should be presented.

3. The diagnoses which were not associated with increased risk, presumably including substance abuse, should be clearly presented.

4. As might be expected, there are multiple diagnoses in the individuals in the study population with the total presented being in the infection group being far greater than the number of individuals in that group. Additional information should be provided on diagnosis by individual and how this was accounted for in the statistical analysis.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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