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

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Reviewer: Helinä Hakko

Reviewer's report:

The author has examined the association between infection early in life and the risk of mental disorders among youth in the community. The study is well conducted. However, the major limitations are the crude definition for early infections needing antibiotics and very small number of cases. Thus, the reliable results can not be achieved with this data.

Introduction:
- Introduction covers the relevant literature
- The aims of the study are clearly presented.

Methods:
- Sample: More details about the characteristics of the data (1285 study subjects) must be presented, such as gender, age, race, parents' social class/socioeconomic status, etc.
- Early infection: The variable for early infection is very crude. The number of infections needing antibiotics is also small $14/1265 = 1.1\%$.
- Analytic strategy: The use of statistical methods is appropriate.

Results
- The number of cases with early infections is very small. Thus, the confidence limits are wide, which means that the results are not reliable.

Discussion:
- The discussion is well structured. But the results are not reliably supported by the data due to its limitations (crude definition for infections, small number of cases).

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.