Reviewer's report

Title: The disparities in prevalence of neural tube defects and its subtypes at any gestational age in 2006-2008 of China: a study on the hospital-based birth defects surveillance system

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Reviewer: Saeed Dastgiri

Reviewer's report:

This article describes the disparities in the prevalence of NTDs by gestational age in China using the hospital-based data of a birth defects monitoring system. It is well written and discussed in details. There are however some points that need more clarification/amendments by authors:

1) The "aim" of the study is not clear. This needs to be clarified.

2) More details are needed about the setting of the study population. (i.e. coverage? socio-economic status? reproductive history? etc)

3) The "conclusion" does not seem to be indicative enough. Authors need to include/add some more implication of this study for the study area and similar populations. It is not enough to suggest intervention measures without clear justifications based on the findings.

4) It is unclear what the authors mean by PR when they say it is Prevalence Ratio? What does Prevalence Ratio mean? Is that Prevalence Rate? These should be clearly defined and clarified in the "methods".

5) I do not see any "key words" in the abstract section.

6) Authors need to include more details about the diagnosis and detection procedures of birth defects in the study setting.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'