Reviewer's report

Title: Pregnancy outcome after use of cranberry in early pregnancy - the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study

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Reviewer: Anne Lise Brantsaeter

Reviewer's report:

The authors studied whether use of cranberry during pregnancy was associated with an increased risk of malformations or with selected pregnancy outcomes such as stillbirth/neonatal death, low birth weight, preterm birth, low Apgar score, neonatal infections and maternal vaginal bleeding. This is a well written and interesting paper, which according to the authors is the first to specifically address the safety of use of cranberry during pregnancy. This is an important study as the use of dietary supplements and herbs is increasingly popular during in pregnant women. Of particular interest is the possible use of cranberries as replacement for antibiotics.

The results showed that women who reported use of cranberry during pregnancy did not have increased risk neither of malformation nor any other of the pregnancy outcomes studied. The questions posed by the authors are well defined, the methods are appropriate, the data sound, the discussion and conclusion is balanced and supported by the data.

I would like to commend the authors for the particular interesting stratification of cranberry use, UTI and use of antibiotics in Table 4.

I only have a few points that I the authors need to clarify.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
1) Page 6, Exposure variable. Information on cranberry use was retrieved from the three MoBa questionnaires. How was this information on cranberry use extracted from other herbs and supplements reported as text by the women and how did you handle the huge amount of text information originating from three questionnaires and a very large study sample? Was it done by visual inspection of thousands of questionnaires, was it done by more than one person? etc etc. This process needs to be described in more detail.

2) For the outcomes reported in Tables 3 and 4 it is not clear from what is written in the methods section whether the same babies might be included as a case in more than one of these outcomes? This is not likely to influence the results, but should be clarified in the methods.

3) In Table 1 the differences in proportions which reached statistical significance
is difficult to read. I suggest placing the * and the # symbols by the numbers in the columns depicting “use of cranberry” for the stars and by the numbers in the columns depicting “Exposed to cranberry, UTI and no antibiotics against UTI during pregnancy”.

No further comments.

**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.