Reviewer's report

Title: Malnutrition in pregnancy after bariatric surgery: three clinical cases of fetal neural defects

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Reviewer: giovanna turconi

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COMMENTS TO THE AUTHORS

This case report deals with “Malnutrition in pregnancy after bariatric surgery: three clinical cases of fetal neural defects”. It is very interesting and contributes to medical knowledge highlighting the need for nutrition education and lifestyle change after bariatric surgery in childbearing age women who should be encouraged to follow a well-balanced diet and advised to take the recommended nutritional supplements.

Nevertheless, it presents many inaccuracies that should be amended. These are listed below.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION

1. Table 2 and 3

The authors report 3 cases of fetal neural malformation. But as far as case 3 is concerned, both in table 2 and table 3, no information are available regarding pregnant nutritional findings and fetal and neonatal outcome of the three babies. The authors should give an explanation in the text about the missing data.

2. Table 2

In this table there are a lot of values that are illogical. Please, check the data carefully!!

- Vitamin A: nv 0.25-0.86: case 2 shows 10.25mcg/ml. How can it be possible? A value largely higher than the upper normal value!!
- 1-25 diidrossivitD: nv 48-110: case 1 and 2 show values above 400 pmol/L. How can it be possible since the mothers do not take any supplement? In addition, 25-idrossivitD that is the precursor of diidrossivitD is only 40.30 and 76.28 pmol/L. 1-25 dididrossivitD values are illogical!!
- Moreover, I am very surprised that case 1 shows Hb level equal to 8.7 g/dl. I wonder that her general medicine physician did not follow her during pregnancy. Is there an explanation?

3. Conclusions

Paragraph 12: the authors report that the clinical evidence of nyctalopia in case 3 could be strongly related to hypovitaminosis A. But they have no data on the nutritional status of the mother, since her data were not available. In the sentence, they should only suppose the presence of hypovitaminosis A.
MINOR COMPULSORY REVISION

4. Abstract-Results
First line: add “babies” after case 1 and 2

5. Cases presentation
First line: the authors report that case 2 became pregnant at 2 years after bariatric surgery. In table 2, instead, after 5 years. Check the data carefully!
Paragraph 4: change “showed” with “showen”

6. Table 1
change the title with: Clinical and anthropometric data of the three mothers

7. Table 2
add nv to folates, iron, ferritin

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'