Reviewer's report

Title: Exposure to Phthalates among Premenstrual Girls from Rural and Urban Gharbiah, Egypt

Version: 3 Date: 11 April 2011

Reviewer: Mary S Wolff

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1. The PC approach should be saved for the later study. It adds nothing to this analysis, and the interpretation is unclear - the PC-plots look identical for the 2 groups in both figures. It would be more helpful to show GM or Means adjusted for some of the covariates. The crude differences are precisely what is repeated in the PC results.

2. Add this explanation to the Methods

3. p 7: contamination often arises from handling, regardless of the quality of the vials, because of pipets, tubing, gloves, etc. Further, while MECPP - the most reliable DEHP metabolite - is similar between urban/rural (unadjusted), the phase-I metabolites are different. Thus, there may be a chance that contamination could have occurred in the urban not the rural situation, or is it that urban setting had plastic seat covers in the collection site. This information might also be useful for the "later study".

4. p 10, li 221 and final response note about bivariates: were differences observed in multivariable adjusted means?

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.