Reviewer's report

Title: Views of pregnant women and clinicians regarding discussion of exposure to phthalate plasticizers

Version: 1 Date: 2 May 2014

Reviewer: Jun Yoshinaga

Reviewer's report:

The work in this manuscript is potentially interesting and relevant for evaluating perception and communication of risk associated with yet uncertain hazard. However, the manuscript has several significant flaws listed below that made it difficult to evaluate the true value of the work.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Method is poorly described: What information on hazard/risk of phthalate esters was supplied to the subjects before the interview? Did the authors supply the same information to pregnant women and medical staffs? What did the authors question in the interview to draw the subjects' responses?

2. I doubt if the subjects' responses given in RESULT section were subjectively selected by the authors. The readers may need to know other responses which were not given in the RESULT.

3. Objective results should be presented; for instance, the authors stated that “… prenatal care providers in our research did not perceive engaging in the discussion of phthalate exposure in pregnancy as relevant.” (Page 15, 5th line of DISCUSSION). Did all providers respond so? The authors could have at least presented the number of providers with positive and negative attitude in the RESULT section.

4. Potential bias of the results due to selection of subjects should be discussed because very limited number of subjects was involved.

Minor revision

1. In INTRODUCTION section, findings of animal experiments and human studies are mixed up. The authors should clearly distinguish the two kinds of findings and also note that there are a similar number of human studies in which “negative data” had been obtained.

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:

No competing interest