Reviewer's report

Title: On the use of the outcome variable "small for gestational age" when gestational age is a potential mediator: a maternal asthma perspective

Version: 1 Date: 08 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Mallorie Fiero

Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript, the authors carry out a variety of directed acyclic graph (DAG) simulations to suggest that both birth weight (BW) and small for gestational age (SGA) should be used as outcome variables in perinatal studies. The authors provided evidence that this particular issue is relevant in the field of maternal asthma by adding more current references. The methods and results of the simulations were thorough with sensitivity analyses based on differing assumptions of the underlying model.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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