Reviewer's report

Title: How many preterm births in England are due to excision of the cervical transformation zone? Nested case control study

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Reviewer: pierre martin-hirsch

Reviewer's report:

This is an extremely well constructed and presented paper by one of the leading UK cancer epidemiological units in the UK.

There have been many individual studies and meta-analyses suggesting increased premature deliveries after excision treatment to the cervix. Many have been biased towards adversed events as they have included knife cone biopsies and deep excisions as a reflection of scandinavian practice which is more radical than current uk practice.

The authors present the outcomes derived from english colposcopy clinics which are quality assured and practice standard out-patient loop excisional treatment.

the authors have presented the risk of preterm delivery after excisions treatment stratified by depth of treatment in previous publications.

This is an important paper as it it is the first paper to my knowledge that has attempted to quantify the total number of preterm deliveries ( and extreme preterm deliveries ) in England giving the total number and the rate.

this give the reader an estimate of the contribution of colposcopy treatment to preterm deliveries. this has not been done before and therefore is original and will be cited . This is robust data on how the management of cervical disease impacts on reproductive outcomes and can be utilised in health economic evaluations particularly on the impact of HPV vaccination etc

Pierre Martin-Hirsch

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 i have no competing interests