Reviewer’s report

Title: The Norwegian Preeclampsia Family Cohort Study: a new resource for investigating genetic aspects and heritability of preeclampsia and related phenotypes

Version: 0 Date: 17 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Melissa Wilson

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper describing an important new cohort. There are some minor issues to be resolved prior to publication, as follows:

Methods: Identification of Participants:

1. Were there any exclusion criteria? Multiple births do not appear to have been excluded, but what about lupus, diabetes, chronic hypertension, etc.? If not excluded, what were the proportions of women with these conditions? (Results)

2. Which hospitals were involved? Should be listed in methods and not solely appear in Figure.

Methods: Linkage to Routine Data Sources

1. Is all follow-up in the cohort passive (i.e., by record linkage)? This should be made very clear. Currently, it seems that this is the case but the paper is vague in this regard.

Methods: Statistical Analysis

1. I realize that it is not possible to calculate power without a study hypothesis but some discussion of power issues seems appropriate. What do the authors expect to have power to detect, with respect OR for genetic effects for a range of allele frequencies, for example? The authors have some leeway in how they can present this discussion, but some discussion of anticipated power is relevant.

2. Why were the p-values chosen that were used for comparisons? Justifications are needed as they seem arbitrary (especially p<0.01). Why were the variables compared chosen? Were these of a priori interest based on previous knowledge, for example?

Results:

1. Suggest referring to invited women as eligible women. To do otherwise begs the question why all eligible women were not invited, however, they were.
2. Refer to flow diagram in this section

3. Low participation rates must be considered a limitation of the study -- can result in selection bias. Should be discussed in Discussion section.

4. Was there any missing data? If so, how was it handled? What is the plan for missing data in future analyses?

Discussion:

1. (See above).

2. Comment on the generalizability of results from this study population.

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?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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