Reviewer’s report

Title: Spontaneous prematurity in fetuses with congenital diaphragmatic hernia: A retrospective cohort study about prenatal predictive factors.

Version: 0 Date: 28 Sep 2016

Reviewer: Tim Jancelewicz

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting retrospective study that attempts to describe a model that predicts prematurity in fetuses affected by CDH. The authors found that o/e LHR was associated with prematurity (p = 0.02) and was the only independently predictive variable. While there is a respectable number of patients in the study (80) and the data are promising, there probably isn't enough discrimination with that number of patients to be as confident in their conclusions as they are. In other words, the authors should be more self-critical in the discussion and they should suggest that further and ideally prospective validation is required for these data to have clinical utility. With some further editing the paper should be reconsidered for publication.

The authors should probably be less enthusiastic about what the statistics have revealed. First, use of a significance level of 0.1 for variable inclusion and 0.2 for exclusion is not very strict. Second, the c-statistic (area under the ROC curve, value between 0.6-0.7) suggests poor fit, not good as stated in the manuscript (line 143); but more importantly, the curve itself is not ideal and implies the model approaches random discrimination (slope 1.0) towards the bottom left of the graph. Another measure of significance such as the Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit test should be used to validate the model.

There are many minor grammatical/formatting errors and these should be corrected by a native English speaker. Some examples:

1.) Line 78 should be ? "only malformations that could be postnataally treated"

2.) Results line 117 etc - reduce to 1 decimal place

3.) Table 1 - should include P values from the univariate analysis

4.) Line 152, 153: edit grammar.

5.) Line 154: should be hypotheses

6.) Line 161: should be malformation

7.) Line 172: should be "with", not "in"
8.) Line 173 - again, keep it to one decimal place

9.) Line 183 - comma after "study"

**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.

No

**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

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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