Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiology of influenza in pregnant women hospitalized with respiratory illness in Moscow, 2012/2013-2015/2016: a hospital-based active surveillance study

Version: 0 Date: 06 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Eran Hadar

Reviewer's report:

Trushakova et al. explored the impact of influenza on pregnancy, neonatal outcomes. I think the study is nice, but some major concerns prohibit its publication at current form.

1) There is a selection bias, as hospitalization is a required criteria for study participation, there is an over-representation of pregnant women (as they more often hospitalized) in the population and overestimation of influenza as a consequence. These two populations - pregnancy and non-pregnancy, if hospitalized cannot be compared. A better comparison would be hospitalized pregnant women, due to acute respiratory illness - with and without influenza

2) The pregnancy outcome is not complete - as it was collected only if outcomes occurred during hospitalization? 3) As hospitalization is for acute respiratory morbidity, and influenza in detected only during hospitalization, than the risk for hospitalization is not influenced by influenza status rather by pregnancy status - i.e. risk for hospitalization is due to respiratory morbidity and not due to influenza, as it is not tested among non-pregnant women who are not hospitalized

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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