Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between ambient particulate matter concentration and fetal growth restriction stratified by maternal employment

Version: 0 Date: 21 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Hualiang Lin

Reviewer's report:
This study examined the effect modification of mothers’ employment status on the association between outdoor particulate matter and fetal growth restriction. The findings of this study are of great importance for the public health. I provided a few comments for the authors to consider:
1. The statistical methods should be a mix-effect model, as they assessed the exposure at the district level, rather than real individual level. Also people living in the same district may share some similar characteristics. Please refer to a few similar studies: Ritz B, (2007). American Journal of Epidemiology 166(9): 1045-1052. Lin H, (2017). Hypertension 69(5): 806-812.
2. How did the authors assess the employment, for example, some pregnant women may be employed during the early stage of pregnancy, and then unemployed at late stage.
3. How did the authors examine the statistical significance of the difference between the two groups, employed VS unemployed?
4. Are there any different between the included and excluded mothers?
5. Any missing data for air pollution?
6. For the third trimester, I would suggest to use a fixed time period, for example, 1 week or 2 weeks, as the current definition would lead to different exposure length.

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

No

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

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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