Reviewer’s report

Title: GESTATIONAL AGE AT BIRTH AND BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS FROM FOUR TO ELEVEN YEARS OF AGE: BIRTH COHORT STUDY

Version: 0 Date: 04 May 2017

Reviewer: Elizabeth Asztalos

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this manuscript. I commend the authors for conducting this in-depth population study looking at the factors that may contribute to attention and behavioral issues in children and the role of gestational age at birth. The authors presented a very nicely organized follow-up study with a good follow-up rate.

I have a few minor points and most of it is related to the discussion:

1. The study does bring out that the issue of attentional and behavioral issues is multi-factorial and may vary between countries. I think this aspect needs to be brought out more as it does differ from some of the current literature, as evident by a relatively recent publication looking at similar gestational age grouping in the US (Richards JL et al Nov 2016).

2. A limitation of this study is the fact that the number of infants <34 weeks is 2.3% which is very small when one wants to evaluate the effect of significant prematurity; this, again, is related to the fact that this is a regional population that is being studied but this does need to be addressed. Most of the discussion focuses on the later preterm and does not address the more preterm infants.

3. I think that there needs to be more in the discussion as to why its results are different. This is a regional population cohort study which in itself can be and is a limitation and it may be prudent to include a discussion why the socio-demographic situation plays a heavier role compared to the other studies to date.

4. What actions or recommendations can be drawn from this manuscript?

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.

No
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:

Acceptable

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