Reviewer’s report

Title: Preterm Birth and the Timing of Puberty: a Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 03 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Ulla Sovio

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for providing data on the age at follow up for the participants in the included studies. The authors could include this table in the supplementary materials of the manuscript.

I agree with the authors that a meta-analysis of a small sub-sample of the included studies that have sufficient data available (615 participants) is methodologically appropriate.

It is unfortunate that the authors could not add data from more than one of the additional large studies at this stage. However, the one study they added (reference 37) indicated that the onset of puberty could be later in girls born preterm than in girls born at term.

Based on the overall updated results, I suggest a change in the conclusion statement:

"To confirm the suggestion that preterm birth may be associated with slightly earlier onset of puberty in females, further studies re-analyzing existing study data and including unpublished datasets will be required."

could be changed to something like:

"To strengthen the evidence base to answer the question whether preterm birth is associated with the timing of puberty, further studies re-analyzing existing study data and including unpublished data from existing datasets will be required."
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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