Reviewer’s report

Title: Early antibiotic exposure and development of asthma and allergic rhinitis in childhood

Version: 0 Date: 27 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer’s report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Not sure - key details are missing from the manuscript

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Not sure - key details are missing from the manuscript

Statistics - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Maybe - with major revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Overall impression of the study: This is a well written report. The significance of the study should be discussed in more detail. Nevertheless, the study objectives are clear and the design is appropriate. The process of medical record review and any effort taken to address potential bias should be described.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The novelty of the study need to be better explained in the introductory section. The methodology section should provide further information on: (1) The setting; (2) Characteristics of the data source (the electronic medical record) in terms of accuracy and completion; (3) Data extraction process: Measures taken to assure that data extraction was consistent with the operational definitions adopted should be explained. Method of handling missing data. Identification of people in-charge of coding the data. If more than one person participated in the extraction and coding of the data, description of the measures taken to estimate intercoder agreement. Efforts taken to address potential bias. With regard to the discussion: In p. 4, line 4-31, authors explain that (1) many environmental factors that were not controlled for in the study are likely to contribute to the development of obesity and (2) that obesity tends to manifest in older individuals. Thus, is it appropriate to include obesity among the study primary outcomes with the available data/ selected cohort of children? How?

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

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.

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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