Reviewer’s report

Title: NASCITA Italian birth cohort study: a study protocol

Version: 0  Date: 01 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Muneera Rasheed

Reviewer's report:

The study can be a major contribution to understand ECD in Italian context leveraging the existing mechanism. The paper can be strengthened further if the following information can be requested.

Recruitment:

The selection of the geographical sites. While the final recruitment of doctors depends on their consent, there can be other means of making the data as systematic as possible like using a systematic random sampling technique. Similar approach can be followed for recruitment of the families. The sampling strategy has not been defined for the families.

How will parents receive information? Who will provide the information?

Data Collection

What measures will be used?

Are we expecting the paediatricians to complete the forms? Were the forms tested for the time taken? Will it be feasible?

Sample Size

How was the sample size calculated?

Analysis Plan

The analysis plan is not an analysis plan at the moment. What are the independent variables? What are the dependent variables? What are the confounders?

What are the main outcomes? What statistical methods will be used?

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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