Reviewer's report

Title: Association of Decreased Early Pregnancy Serum Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) Concentrations with Antepartum Depression

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Reviewer: Luisella Bocchio Chiavetto

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe an interesting study on a wide sample of women, reporting an association between low early pregnancy serum BDNF concentrations and antepartum depression. The study is well-designed and the analyses appropriated.

Major compulsory revision

My major concern is related to the serum preparation for the BDNF measures: in the method description it seems that the blood was not let at room temperature for the clotting and also that the tube was not centrifuged for serum sample preparation. Is that correct? Authors should better describe the procedure, because preanalytical conditions may influence the BDNF serum content (see also Maffioletti et al. Biotechniques. 2014;57(3):111-4)

Minor Essential Revisions

-Pag 14 line 7 the sentence "Other animal models have examined factors that influence BDNF expression and concentration, such as stress and estrogen" is misleading

-BNDF instead of BDNF, please check

-check also the literature citations in the text (first author or numbers? ex: ....income countries (LAMICs). [5-7]Fisher et al., 2012;Bindt et al., 2012) Antepartum depression is....)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'