Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Kenji Hashimoto

Reviewer's report:

The authors examined the effects of serum BDNF levels in antepartum depression. They found that maternal early pregnancy serum BDNF levels in women with antepartum depression were significantly lower than those of women without depression. The sample size of this study is large. The experimental procedure is good. This paper is well written, and is of interest for the readers of the journal. I have the minor comments for your manuscript.

Minor comments:
1) They used the ELISA kit (R&D System) for determination of serum BDNF. This kit recognizes both BDNF (mature form) and its precursor proBDNF, indicating that the value is total concentration of proBDNF and mature BDNF (Yoshida et al. 2012). As the limitation of this study, the authors should comment this point in the discussion section.
2) Please check the references in the text for the reference style of the journal.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.