Author’s response to reviews

Title: THE CYTOKINE PROFILE OF WOMEN WITH SEVERE ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION DURING PREGNANCY

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Author’s response to reviews:
To: Dafne Solera,
on behalf of Samuel Harris
BMC Psychiatry

Response to reviewers’ comments
1. Editor Comments: I'm afraid the quality of the English used throughout your manuscript does not currently meet our requirements. We recommend that you ask a native English-speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service. Use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of acceptance for publication.

The present version of the MS has been successfully revised and the quality of the English text throughout the MS has been improved using a professional language editing service. We added the journal manuscript editing certificate that acknowledges the corrections made in the English text along the manuscript.

2. Please note that we will not be able to allow another round of revisions therefore we urge you to make every effort to address the reviewer's comments in full and improve the quality of the language to an acceptable standard.

The quality of the language to an acceptable standard has been completely improved in the MS, and as shown, all corrections from previous version have been highlighted as requested.

Reviewer reports:

1. Reviewer 1: The authors have addressed most of the reviewers’ comments. It does not appear that the text has been edited by a native English speaker as the grammar, tense and formatting still needs work.

The present manuscript has been edited by a professional language editing service, correcting grammar, tense and formatting, respectively. We have attached the certificate of English revision.

2. Were the cytokines assessed for skewness? Rarely are they normally distributed and some form of adjustment (i.e. log10) is needed.

As requested, cytokine concentrations at each plot was adjusted to log10, to avoid any skewness of data.

3. There are no statistics shown for the GLM.

We have addressed this issue, and as shown, table 4 illustrates the statistics as described at the footnote of the table.
4. It is unclear why there is an emphasis on obesity when the sample is overweight, not obese. And does the BMI reflect pre-pregnancy weight or current weight?

We have addressed this issue, and paragraphs focused on obesity were deleted in the Discussion section. BMI reflects current weight of patients, measured at entry to the study.

5. It is not clear if the authors separated out the 2nd trimester from 3rd trimester in the analyses. It does not look like any of the possible covariates were included in the analyses.

We did not separate the data from patients in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters, since there were no statistical differences between these trimesters, and the number of patients in the 2nd trimester was very low (n=4).

6. The Discussion is too long.

We have addressed this issue and the Discussion has been shorten as requested.