Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychiatric Symptoms and Risk Factors in Adults Born Preterm with Very Low Birthweight or Born Small for Gestational Age at Term

Version: 0 Date: 06 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Rashelle Musci

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript explores differences in psychiatric symptoms among individuals born preterm with low birth weight or born small for gestational age at term. Though much remains unknown about some causes and risk factors for low birthweight, research has suggested that low birthweight is associated with a number of poor outcomes and those poor outcomes can extend to adulthood. Though this manuscript presents analysis from an interesting and unique cohort, there are some issues that temper my enthusiasm for the manuscript.

The introduction nicely discusses the literature related to low birthweight, but the research questions set up by the authors are a bit confusing. It seems as though the question to assess the agreement between self-report measures and clinical measures is out of place. Nowhere in the introduction is this discussed as a potential methodological issue among this population. I do not believe that this portion of the manuscript adds anything and, in fact, the conclusions made as a result of those analyses step beyond what they should.

There are some clear differences between the samples, making it questionable if the 'control' group is a true control. Was any effort made to match the control group based on key characteristics and even, perhaps, parental psychiatric health problems?

Finally, a greater effort needs to be placed on what this manuscript adds to the literature, and why it matters to child health.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

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

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