Reviewer’s report

Title: Biomarker Screening for Antenatal Depression in Women Who Underwent Caesarean Section: A Matched Observational Study with Plasma Lipidomics

Version: 2 Date: 03 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Authors have done a good job addressing prior reviewer issues. There remain a few additional issues that will strengthen the manuscript. See notes below about the number of false positives and including the sensitivity/specificity analysis in the text.
REQUESTED REVISIONS:
The sensitivity and specificity data shown in the response to authors needs to be incorporated in the manuscript. The implications of the large rate of false positive needs to be discussed better, e.g. relationship to the other clinical predictors and how this might be useful in follow up for women screening positive using the biomarker.
Also a couple of the tables need work. Table 1 seems to show percentages for the total sample, not within group for some of the categorical variables which is not useful. Also Table 4 needs to identify in the title the dependent variable.

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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