Reviewer’s report

Title: Urinary iodine in early pregnancy is associated with subclinical hypothyroidism in Tianjin, China: an observational study

Version: 0 Date: 27 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Angela Leung

Reviewer’s report:

This is a cross-sectional study of 55 pregnant women in Tianjin, China who were assessed for the associations between urinary iodine concentrations and serum thyroid function (as categorized by normal thyroid function and subclinical hypothyroidism). The authors report iodine sufficiency in this study sample, and that high levels of urinary iodine (>250 mcg/L UIC) were associated with increased risks of subclinical hypothyroidism. Other measures assessed with serum autoimmune thyroid antibody titers and thyroid ultrasound characteristics of the participants.

1. Methods: The calculation for the study sample size and power of the study's primary outcomes are not provided.

2. Table 1: It would be helpful to provide the median TSH (with range) and mean T4 serum concentrations (+/- SD) for each of the two groups.

3. Discussion: Wolff-Chaikoff effect is misspelled.

4. Unfortunately, the study adds only marginal new information, as compared to the studies referenced in the paper (citations 8 and 9), and is the major limitation of this manuscript.

5. There are extensive English syntax grammatical errors throughout, and the manuscript requires heavy language editing.

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.
Yes

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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