Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of Mildly Elevated Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone during the First Trimester on Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes

Version: 0 Date: 27 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Jan Jiskra

Reviewer's report:
The study aims to evaluate whether the effect of mild elevated TSH with concentrations between 2.5 and 4.0 mIU/l at the first trimester increased adverse pregnancy outcomes in TPOAb negative pregnant women. No differences in adverse pregnancy outcomes were observed between the mild elevated TSH group and the normal TSH group.

Main comments and limitations:
Why authors did not evaluate an incidence of pregnancy loss in the study? Probably, it is the most important adverse event during pregnancy. Repeated analysis with additional data about pregnancy loss must be performed before publication.

Page 3, section "Methods", line 1-3 from the bottom: Women with TSH ≥4.0 mIU/L were treated with levothyroxine in this study. My question is how many women did achieve target TSH (<4.0 mIU/L) during pregnancy and when? Conversely, how many cases of initial TSH between 2.5-4.0 progressed to more than 4.0 mIU/L during pregnancy?

Section "Subjects": Did the women included in the study use iodine supplements? What is the iodine saturation in the area the study was performed?

Minor remarks:
Page 3, section "Subjects", line 1: "Pregnant" instead of "Pregnancy"
Page 3, section "Methods", line7 from the bottom: "free thyroxine" instead of "free thyroxine 4"
Page 3, section "Methods", line7 from the bottom: "were" instead of "was"
Page 3, section "Methods", line 4-5 from the bottom: The reference range of normal TSH should be defined as 2.5 and 97.5th percentile of TPOAb negative women.
Page 4, section: Methods", lines 5 and 13: "placental abruption" is doubled
Page 4, section "Methods", line 3-5 from the bottom: "small and large for gestational age" - units are not present, it should be probably less than 10th percentile of length in centimeters and more than 90th percentile of length in centimeters.
Page 6, section "Results", line 4 from the bottom: "(19.32(1.91)" - interquartile range is absent
Page 7, section "Results", line 1: probably "(16.46±3.11 vs 15.82±2.74)" instead of "(16.46(3.11) vs 15.82(2.74)"

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

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