Reviewer's report

Title: High normal TSH is associated with lower mannan-binding lectin in women of reproductive age

Version: 1 Date: 20 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (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 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?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

It is an interesting study.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

This is a very interesting study addressing MBL levels and their possible association with pregnancy outcome. However, there are some questions which have to be answered by the authors before this manuscript will be suitable for publication.

1. Does this study has strong statistical power? 95 subjects, only one third with TSH values higher than 2.5?

2. It is stated in Discussion "Similarly, we have observed in the present study that MBL level was not statistically associated with L-thyroxine treatment, which again underlines strong association between MBL level and thyroid function". Please state how many patients were on TSH supplementation therapy an if there was any difference on MBL levels between euthyroid on treatment vs. naïve subjects.

3. Which is the effect of age on MBL circulating concentrations in normal conditions? You state about elderly subjects, but what are the data for women of childbearing age? Was this association expected? Please in the graph state differently those with TSH values higher than 2,5

4. Is your study group balanced for age and BMI? Please provide a table for results among groups, and describe in text the results of multivariate analysis.

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:

Acceptable

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

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