**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** The human fetal adrenal produces cortisol but no detectable aldosterone throughout the second trimester.

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

We have made all changes and checks requested by reviewer and editor.

In the manuscript the changed/added text is highlighted in blue.

* Please also add the new ethical approval in the main text, in addition to how it is currently indicated in the figure legend*

This has been done.
Reviewer #2: The reviewer would like to thank the authors to take in account almost all comments, especially regarding the figure 2 and to answer to his questions. Moreover the new title is more appropriate and reflects the importance of an adrenal biosynthesis of cortisol in the second trimester. This revised version has been greatly improved and the additional data regarding the mineralocorticoid receptor should be included. Nevertheless, the authors should modify the sentence (lines 373-374). To-day the prenatal diagnosis is commonly done by molecular studies but only the determination of fetal sex (SRY gene) is an non-invasive method. The genotyping of the CYP21A2 gene is an invasive method because the DNA was extracted from chorionic villus samples (CVS). Therefore "While non-invasive molecular methods are….." should be replaced "While molecular methods are…."

We have made these changes as requested by the reviewer.

*Editorial Policies*

We have checked and updated the sections mentioned.

In addition, we have incorporated the new kidney data into Fig 5 and uploaded a revised version of Fig 5. Therefore Supplementary file S4 has been removed.