Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 03 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Yves Morel

Reviewer's report:

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….."

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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Yes

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