Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of a lifestyle intervention in obese pregnant women on change in gestational metabolic profiles: findings from the UK Pregnanacies Better Eating and Activity Trial (UPBEAT) RCT.

Version: 1 Date: 03 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Rand Wilcox

Reviewer's report:

A few minor issues:

In your response, you make a distinction between linear spline versus non-linear models. You mention a test of this assumption in the supplemental material. But there is no indication exactly how you tested this assumption, beyond the placement of the knot.

Did you test some hypothesis? If yes, was the power sufficiently high to detect a departure from a linear model that has substantive importance?

You characterize effect size in terms of standard deviations.

The standard deviation is not robust.

There is some possibility that there is a much stronger effect size if you use robust methods. What happens if you use, for example, a Winsorized standard deviation or some other robust measure of dispersion?

You cite [10] in the supplemental material to justify not worrying about non-normality. There are concerns about the design of their simulation study. Again, effect size might be more substantial in some sense than indicated in the paper.

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.
Unable to assess

**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

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