Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 06 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Rand Wilcox

Reviewer's report:

Have only two remaining concerns.

In your response 4, you say:

Repeated 1-4 above but first removing 1% of all outliers (top and bottom) at each timepoint and by treatment group. This should examine sensitivity of the conclusions to outliers.

1. Removing outliers among a dependent variable and applying some standard method to the remaining data results in an inaccurate estimate of the standard error. This is a serious problem regardless of the sample size. Details are in the Wilcox book mentioned in my last report. Technically sound methods for dealing with this are described in this book as well.

2. I often encounter situations where 10% or more of the data are outliers based on a boxplot or the MAD-median rule. It is unclear why removing 1% suffices.

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

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