Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of continued folic acid supplementation beyond the first trimester of pregnancy on cognitive performance in the child: a follow-up study from a randomized controlled trial (FASSTT Offspring trial)

Version: 0 Date: 26 Aug 2019
Reviewer: Regan Bailey

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript presents RCT data on the cognitive testing of the children of mothers who were randomized to receive folic acid dietary supplements after the first trimester or not. 70 children are reported on at year 7 and 39 children at age 3. Multiple cognitive measures are used. Folic acid DS are recommended during the first trimester to prevent NTDs, but it is largely unknown whether continued supplementation is warranted and observational studies have either demonstrated a positive or null association with continued supplementation and cognitive outcomes. Limited RCT data exist.

The study is well designed. Compliance and follow-up were addressed to the extent possible. Power calculations were employed and appropriate. The paper is quite well written and east to follow. The authors have provided a comprehensive review of the existing literature in the introduction and discussion. Very minor edits or clarifications outlined below.

Line 119 - specify went consent was obtained, listed over the phone and assuming at the visit, but clarity would be helpful here

Genetic data were obtained but not presented here, why?
Under the limitations, please add that some of the same children were measured at both 3 and 7 years

Were any adverse events reported in study?

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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No conflicts of interest to disclose

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