Reviewer’s report

Title: In utero exposure to mercury and childhood overweight or obesity: counteracting effect of maternal folate status

Version: 1 Date: 07 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Chiho Watanabe

Reviewer's report:

The reviewer appreciate the sincere efforts to address the comments. Although most of the comments have been adequately addressed, the reviewer still finds some inadequacy in the responses to the following two comments.

Methods
- p.6, line 11-15 (in original submission p.5., line 2-5) ... The reviewer was not questioning the performance of the laboratory. It is the name of the certified reference material(s) used in the assays which needs to be described. While the authors mentioned 'second source quality control samples', the manufacturer and name of these samples should be clearly indicated in the manuscript (for example, NIST ####, fish muscle, etc.)

Results
- p.9, line 20-22 (in original p.7 , line 21) .... As already pointed out, EPA's reference value (RfD) is a defined term and referring to 'dose'. Although the cord blood level Hg that author cited (58 microg/L) provides the base of RfD, it is not RfD per se (1x10-4 mg/kgBW/day).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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