Reviewer's report

Title: Prenatal Mercury Exposure, Autism, and Developmental Delay, Using Pharmacokinetic Combination of Newborn Blood Concentrations and Questionnaire Data: A Case Control Study

Version: 6 Date: 7 May 2015

Reviewer: Alan Stern

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed my comments in my previous review. I continue to have some disagreements with their conclusions, but for the most part, one could attribute these to actual differences of opinion rather than differences of fact. I would point out, however, and ask the authors to consider noting the their paper that while they claim that the combined fish diet Hg concentration of 42 ppb they identify is both a better test of their model than their individual species results and an accurate representation of the likely mean fish Hg fish concentration in the mothers' diets, the estimate of the mean Hg concentration in the US fish diet estimated by Groth (Environ Res. 2010 Apr;110(3):226-36. doi: 10.1016/j.envres.2009.12.006. Epub 2010 Feb 8) is 86 ppb, more than twice the authors' estimate. This should at least raise a question about these conclusions on the authors’ part. One could argue that the population investigated by the authors was not necessarily a random sample of the US population (or that the Groth estimate is, itself, uncertain), but I think that as an independent estimate of the same metric, the discrepancy between the authors' and Groth's estimate should be presented.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.