Reviewer’s report

Title: Prenatal exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and the risk of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy

Version: 2 Date: 11 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Kristina Whitworth

Reviewer’s report:

This paper examines the association of a suite of PFAS compounds, measured in cord blood, and HDP among the mother. The authors have mostly addressed previous comments, though some comments remain.

Major Comments:

1. The specific hypotheses regarding PFBS in particular are still not clear in the introduction.

2. As noted previously, this is a cross-sectional analysis of data obtained from women presenting at the time of birth. Even if these women are currently enrolled in a prospective study, it is inappropriate to characterize the present analysis as a 'prospective birth cohort' (in the abstract). It should be made clear in the abstract and the methods that the analysis presented in this paper is cross-sectional. Characterizing this analysis as prospective is misleading.

3. The authors indicate that covariates were selected in a DAG and refer to a Figure 1, but no DAG was included in the revision, and Figure 1 refers to presentation of correlation coefficients among the PFAS compounds. Please clarify and include the DAG used to guide your covariate selection for the benefit of others, even if it is included as a supplement.

4. Are the author's suggesting that maternal age, education, parity and BMI made up the minimal sufficient adjustment set based on the specified DAG?

5. The authors now include a secondary analysis in a supplementary table. But, no mention of these results is made in the results section of the paper. Some general statement of these results should be mentioned.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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