Reviewer's report

Title: Exposure to prenatal secondhand smoke and early neurodevelopment: Mothers and Children’s Environmental Health (MOCEH) study

Version: 0 Date: 24 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Kinga Polanska

Reviewer's report:

The topic of the study is of great importance and the paper is generally interesting. There are several issues which in my opinion need to be address before paper can be considered for publication:

1. By "direct" (in the first sentence of introduction) you mean active smoking? If yes please change it into more standard word.

2. As in my previous review (stated for other journal) I recommend to add the study by Polanska et al. „Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure during Pregnancy and Child Neurodevelopment” (2017) - It is not clear to me why the oldest studies are quoted and that new one is still omitted - this study is focusing on the same topic (almost the same time of the study, ETS by cotinine measurement and Bayley for child psychomotor development at age of 1 and 2 years)

3. Many studies report positive associations between breastfeeding and child neurodevelopment and suggest that the longer duration of breastfeeding benefits child psychomotor development. However in some studies, the correlation between breastfeeding and psychomotor development of children is not statistically significant after considering confounding variables. The latest systematic review by Walfisch et al. (2013) pointed out that much of the reported effect of breastfeeding on child neurodevelopment is due to confounding.

4. The authors need to be aware about variables that should be measured after birth like HOME, mother-child interaction, child ETS exposure etc. which can influence child neurodevelopment and need to be included as confounders (it is mentioned in the discussion as the limitation of the study). In the study only breastfeeding was included.

5. It is also not clear to me why in methods it is indicated as 100 ng/ml (for active smoking) and then ≤ 42.7 ng/ml was used. It need to be clearly explained.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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