Reviewer's report

Title: Urinary Mycoestrogens and Age and Height at Menarche in New Jersey Girls

Version: 1 Date: 07 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Gisela Degen

Reviewer's report:

Comments

The revised manuscript contains appropriate changes and clarifications in response to the referees comments.

However, the remark (#1) that the earlier ('baseline') urine analysis included only free (aglycone) forms of biomarkers for mycoestrogen exposure but not phase-II metabolites, is rather briefly mentioned in the Discussion (lines 269-270).

Since zearalenone (ZEN), its reduced forms (alpha-/beta-ZEL) and zeranol are excreted in urine predominantly as conjugated forms (and at far higher levels than the aglycones), this should be made more explicit a) in the Abstract and b) in the Tables.

a) In Lines 45 and 48 the term 'main metabolites' is misleading; it should be replaced by:
   ...and their phase-1 metabolites

b) In Tables 1 and 2 the term 'Total mycoestrogens' can be misinterpreted; thus the footnote listing the analytes should contain the qualifier 'aglycones'

c) Also in headers and columns of the Tables the acronym ZEA should be ZEN

Further corrections:

Line 266f: ".. may impact potential adverse health effects" (unclear wording); perhaps you meant that the fraction of hormonally active and inactive metabolites can have an impact on human health.

Line 272: ... biomarker(s) studies ...

Line 288: ... 17ß (not: B)-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase
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