Reviewer’s report

Title: A Gestational Vulnerability Window for Smoking Exposure and the Increased Risk of Preterm Birth: How Timing and Intensity of Maternal Smoking Matter

Version: 0  Date: 26 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Nada Amroussia

Reviewer's report:

Review

Overall the paper addresses an important public health issue i.e. maternal smoking and preterm birth. The paper reads well. But, I made some suggestions to organize the paper, especially the method section.

Abstract

1. Lines 21-22: the aim of the study was not mentioned.

2. Line 25: is not clear why you used the word "uniquely".

3. Lines 25-26: it would be helpful to add how maternal smoking status was classified.

4. Line 34: could you precise the reference category?

Background

5. Line 65: I suggest starting by presenting facts about preterm birth in the U.S.(why it is an important the public health issue?) and then mention why it important to address this issue.

6. Lines 68-69: could you provide more information about racial and ethnic disparities in the U.S.?

Methods

Measurement

7. Lines 134-135: "self-reported…" this sentence is not clear.
8. Lines 135-141: I suggest moving these sentences to the discussion of the study strengths and limitations.

Statistical analysis

9. Lines 148-173: I suggest moving these sentences to the measurement section.

10. Did you conduct weighted analysis?

Discussion

11. What are the implications of the study findings?

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:

Acceptable

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