Reviewer’s report

Title: Intra-amniotic inflammation and child neurodevelopment: a systematic review protocol

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Ibitola Asaolu

Reviewer's report:

The purpose of this protocol was to summarize evidence on the association between amniotic inflammation/infection and child neurodevelopment. Authors provided succinct background information detailing the need for a systematic review.

I have a few comments on the BACKGROUND: lines 59-61. I encourage the authors to expand on this paragraph to make it easier for the reader to better understand the intended meaning.

For example:

a. Line 59: Yoon et al. observed that elevated amniotic interleukin-6 or interleukin-1 beta, INDICATORS OF INTRA-AMNIOTIC INFLAMMATION, in women with PTL…..

b. Line 60: Increased risk of white matter lesion in whom? Mother or child?

I invite the authors to consider the following points in the METHODS section:

a. In lines 65-67, authors mentioned that there were few cohort studies measuring the association between intra-amniotic inflammation and child neurodevelopment. Later on in lines 85-86, they mentioned that they will review of literature on randomized trials and cohort studies. I wonder, however, if there are sufficient randomized trials on this topic among maternal and child populations to conduct a review.

b. In lines 147-151, authors listed subgroup analyses for five indicators. Do they anticipate enough studies and samples to conduct all five sub-group analyses?
c. The primary outcome is child neurodevelopment. Can authors specify the type of child neurodevelopment they anticipate, i.e. cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder?

d. Information source: authors can consider adding CINAHL to their list of databases for peer-reviewed literature.

e. Eligibility criteria: what is the time reference on searches conducted in this review? Will authors consider all peer-reviewed literature from inception to date? Or will they limit the search to a particular date?

f. Eligibility criteria: Do authors anticipate studies published in other language than English? How will they deal with articles published in a different language?

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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