

Herlev 11 November 2015

The Editor

World Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dear Sir,

Thank you for considering my manuscript "**Risks and guidelines for the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy**", manuscript no. 21063.

I have listed my responses to the comments from the reviewers and the changes I have made in the manuscript. In the manuscript, changes have been highlighted in red.

Reviewer: 1

Very interesting and complete review, minor concerns: you do not mention Hematocrit and GTT measurements, which may be altered during pregnancy.

There are no valid biological measurements of alcohol intake during pregnancy, particularly at the lower end of the scale. Discussing all the potential biomarkers that have been assessed but not found to be valid markers of alcohol intake would – in my opinion – remove the focus from the more important issues discussed in the paper. Even so, a sentence stating the lack of valid biomarkers has been inserted to mention this point, page 7.

Reviewer: 2

The review lacks a Methods chapter. There is no mention about how the references were chosen. In the "Introduction – historical background" one would expect to find the objective of the report and a statement of whether the report is limited to special aspects of alcohol use in pregnancy. Page 9: the term "self-testing behavior" is likely unknown for most readers. Still, the manuscript has its potential. It is fairly well written and the authors possess considerable knowledge in the field. The authors should read and adhere to the author guidelines.

- *A brief methods section has been inserted, page 6.*
- *A clarification of the objective has been inserted, page 6.*

- The term “self-testing behavior” has now been briefly explained, page 10.
- The author guidelines have been read and a few changes and adjustments have been made, including:
 - o *Deleting the final part of the title “why is it difficult to reach consensus?” Although an important part of the title it was necessary to delete in order to stay within the required 12 words. If the editor should consider it prudent to reinsert the last part of the title, I would be happy with that.*
 - o *PMID and DOI numbers have been inserted in the reference list where possible. Please notice that some references do not have PMID and many do not have DOI numbers available (cf PubMed).*

Reviewer: 3

The review article has a high scientific value to be published in the WJOG. This is the author’s field of specialty and will contribute to the clinical practice of the readers of the WJOG.

I thank the reviewer for the positive comments. No changes have been made on the basis of this review.

Other changes made:

Affiliations and correspondence information has been changed because of my current position as professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Herlev University Hospital, Denmark. This also applies to the copyright assignment form. I have sent you an e-mail with the new affiliation information, but since this new information has not been uploaded by you on my account before the re-submission deadline, and since a new copyright assignment form is therefore not available on your webpage, I have had to make the change in the old copyright assignment form (even if such changes should usually not be made). Obviously, no other changes to the form have been made other than changing my affiliation. Should you want me to print a new copyright assignment form directly from your webpage and sign it, please let me know.

Headings within the text have been modified according to the editors comments.

Language check has been performed by a professional, native English person, and some linguistic adjustments have been made.

Best wishes

Ulrik Schiøler Kesmodel