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### **ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

ESPS manuscript NO: 31280

Title: Understanding the pathophysiology of postpartum psychosis: challenges and new

approaches

Reviewer's code: 01911818 Reviewer's country: Canada Science editor: Jin-Xin Kong

**Date sent for review: 2016-11-10 11:23** 

Date reviewed: 2017-01-06 09:16

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[Y] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for
[ ] Grade C: Good	polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	publication
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of	[ ] Plagiarism	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade E: Poor	language polishing	[ Y] No	[ ] Minor revision
	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	[ ] Major revision
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[ Y] No	

### **COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

It is a very well scholarly written review. A subchapter considering the pharmacological treatment of Post-partum psychosis should be added. Indeed the mechanism of action of drugs used to treat PP will shed light on its own mechanism of action.



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### ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

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Title: Understanding the pathophysiology of postpartum psychosis: challenges and new

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Reviewer's code: 02445261 Reviewer's country: Canada Science editor: Jin-Xin Kong

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	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	BPG Search:	[ ] Major revision
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[ Y] No	

#### **COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Thank you for asking me to review the present manuscript.

This is, in summary, a detailed critical review aimed to examine approaches that have been, or are being, carried out to identify/characterize the combination between biological/environmental factors as well as pathophysiological mechanisms underlying postpartum psychosis. Interestingly, the author reported the interesting notion that, according to a genetic mouse model, Ccn3 overexpression is associated with abnormal maternal behaviour.

The author may find as follows my main comments/suggestions.

First, when throughout the Introduction section, the author referred to the relevance of mood stabilizers or to the importance of propylactic pharmacotherapy that should be used judiciously in women at high risk of postpartum psychosis, more details/information are needed. Why mood stabilizers may be useful in a psychotic condition? What he specifically intended with propylactic pharmacotherapy? Psychotherapy and psychoeducation have been also generically reported without providing details/information to support their potential in women with postpartum psychosis.



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In addition, within the "Biological basis to risk?" section, the author should in my opinion describe more appropriately the biological patways underlying postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. What are the main differences according to the differential oestrogen supplementation that may be beneficial for some patients in these two different conditions? The most relevant aims of the present section need to be more specifically provided as well.

Furthermore, when the author reported that neuroimaging studies are difficult to perform due to issues with participant recruitment and testing, and hence, are currently scarce, he should also report the main references to support this assumption. Overall, this section presents interesting statements that need, however, be supported by adequate and updated references.

Overall, the main text is long and difficult to follow for the general readership; thus, i suggest to include one or more Tables in order to summarize the main information according to the most relevant take-home messages includded within the manuscript.

Finally, the paper well describes, in my opinion, the biological (in particular, genetic) substrates underlying the postpartum psychosis but the clinical details of postpartum psychosis onset/maintenance could be more extensively developed.