

Table S1. Overview of the quality check, as described in the Systematic Assessment of Quality in Observational Research (SAQOR).

Dimensions		Present Study	Scores	Sub/Total Score
Sample				
1	The sample is representative of the population from which it was drawn	Yes; a total of 495 women 12 weeks after delivery were screened.	1	
2	The source of the sample is clearly stated	Yes; all participants gave birth at the Fatemeh Hospital (Hamadan) and attended the hospital for routine check	1	
3	The sampling method is described	Yes; participants were consecutively assessed and divided into participants with or without post-partum depression	1	
4	The sample size is appropriate to determine statistical significance for primary outcomes	Yes, a power calculation was performed to estimate the minimum sample size	1	
5	Entry criteria and exclusions are stated and justified	Yes, inclusion and exclusion criteria are clearly stated	1	
Sample: total score:			5 out of 5	5/5
Control/comparison group				
5	Control group is included	Yes, 50 women 12 weeks after delivery without post-partum depression	1	
6	The control group is easily identifiable	Yes, see text and Table 2 for description of the control group	1	
7	The source of the control is explained and appropriate	Yes; controls are recruited from the same hospital and assessed by the same medical and nursing staff	1	
8	Controls are matched or randomized	Controls are matched	1	
9	Statistical difference between cases and controls have been controlled for	Yes, see Table 2; women with or without post-partum depression do not statistically differ as regards age, gestational age, and neonates' Apgar score 10' after delivery	1	
Control/comparison group total score:			5 out of 5	10/10
Quality of exposure/outcome measurements				
10	Adequate assessment of exposure	N/A	0	
11	Adequate measure of outcomes	Yes, hair steroids	1	
Quality of exposure/outcome measurements total score:			1 out of 2	11/12
Distorting influences				
12	Key confounder 1 (MDD) is controlled for/taken into account in the design or analysis	Yes, though scores of MDD/PPD are also outcome variables	1	
13	Key confounder 2 are controlled for/taken into account in the design or analysis	Yes, preliminary calculations showed that age, gestational age and infants' Apgar index did not differ between the two groups	1	
14	Other potential confounders are controlled for/taken into account in the design or analysis	Yes, to avoid possible borderline self-ratings of post-partum depression, inclusion and exclusion criteria were defined in a restrictive fashion	1	
Distorting influences total score			3 out of 3	14/15
Reporting of data				
15	Explanation for missing data is given	Yes, though, no missing data did occur	1	
16	Data are clearly and accurately presented including CI were appropriate	Yes, all descriptive and inferential statistical indices are reported (see Table 3); effect sizes are reported for <i>t</i> - and <i>F</i> -test following Cohen [2]	1	
Reporting of data total score			2 out of 2	16/17
Overall conclusion of the quality				HIGH