

Table 2 Birth and gestational characteristics of neonates affected by neural tube defects and healthy controls

Variable	Cases (n = 23)	Controls (n = 36)	P-value
Birth weight [mean (SD) g]	2910 (726)	3460 (490)	0.001 <sup>a</sup>
Birth height [mean (SD) cm]	46.4 (4.75)	49.7 (2.50)	0.006 <sup>a</sup>
Gestational age [mean (SD) weeks]	36.39 (2.35)	38.53 (0.81)	0.001 <sup>b</sup>
Maternal exposure to drugs in 1st trimester [no. (%)]	6 (26.1)	1 (2.8)	0.011 <sup>c</sup>
Low maternal serum zinc level <sup>e</sup> [no (%)]	13 (56.5)	7 (19.4)	0.003 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Student t-test; <sup>b</sup>Mann–Whitney test; <sup>c</sup>Fisher exact test; <sup>d</sup>chi-squared test; <sup>e</sup>< 10.6 μmol/L.