Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Association of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) with Subclinical Atherosclerosis: a systemic review and meta-analysis

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 29 June 2014

**Reviewer:** Matteo Bianco

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Page 5, line 4: "Second, most of included studies used previous recommendations for the diagnosis of GDM (Carpenter and Coustan criteria) but not the one recommended by International Association of Diabetes and Pregnancy Study Groups (IADPSG)[34] because they designed before the new recommendations were applied."

In my opinion this aspect cannot be discussed only to the “study limitations” but should be assessed more broadly. Your work evaluates potential correlations between GDM and cIMT, cannot leave aside a careful assessment of the criteria with which the various studies define GDM. In the literature studies such as "Int J Endocrinol. 2013 ;2013:248121. doi: 10.1155 /2013/248121 . Epub 2013 Jan 10" clearly describe how the diagnosis of gestational diabetes significantly changed on the basis of the diagnostic criteria used. Some of your results, as the correlation between a more thicker cIMT and younger age, could be explained by the use of different diagnostic criteria. In my opinion before publishing the article you need to reevaluate the results of your meta-analysis in the light of the diagnostic criteria for GDM used in the various studies analyzed.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. Page 2 line 40-41: "cIMT was not measured in both gestational diabetes and cIMT groups" For "cimt group" you mean "control group"? It is unclear what you mean, specify it better please.

2. Page 3 line 42 and 43: "(WMD: 0.07, 95% CI: 0.03–0.10 for those published after 2013 and WMD: 43 0.05, 95% CI: 0.02–0.08 for those after 2013)" Perhaps you have written two times "after 2013".

3. Page 4 line 1-2: "duration (WMD: 0.05, 95% CI: 0.01–0.09 for duration>4 and 1 WMD: 0.05, 95% CI: 2 0.01–0.09 for duration between 0 and 4)" Duration of what? It is unclear what you mean, specify it better please.

Thank you

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field
**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'