Author's response to reviews

Title: Preconception Care for Diabetic Women for Improving Maternal and Fetal Outcomes: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the reviewers for their thorough evaluation of our manuscript. Following are the changes we made to the review according to their comments:

First reviewer Lucky Sarawat

Major revision:

1. An abstract has included with the main manuscript in addition to the one uploaded to the automated submission system of BioMed central.

2. The authors have followed the PRISMA guidelines for reporting systematic reviews as advised earlier by the Editors which is not different from the MOOSE guidelines

3. The statistical software Review Manager of the Cochrane collaboration was used for the meta-analysis and is mentioned on manuscript.

4. The apparent differences between the number of papers (articles) and the number of studies (study population) have been explained in details in the manuscript in the result section.

5. References to the studies included in the meta-analysis have been made in the section (outcome of PCC) and the reason for excluding the other studies is the high risk of bias when assessed by the Newcastle Ottawa Scale (NOS). This was already mentioned in the manuscript.

6. We have reported the results of the meta-analysis and in addition the results of the other studies which were not included in the meta-analysis because the manuscript is a report of a systematic review and not only meta-analysis. Some of the studies which were excluded from the meta-analysis because of different design, intervention or because of being at high risk of bias when assessed by the NOS are still part of the systematic review.

7. All mentioned concerns about table 1 have been addressed. The study by
Dicker has been excluded and the abbreviation OR has been correctly labeled. Three more studies were found to be fulfilling the inclusion criteria were added to table 1.

8. All discrepancies in table 5 have been corrected.
9. The phrase (metabolic disorder) is replaced by neonatal hypoglycemia.

Minor revisions:
1. The grammatical and the spelling errors have been addressed.
2. Limitations of the review have been mentioned.

Second reviewer Wee-Shian Chan

1. We have added clearly to the manuscript the limitations of review.
2. The effect of PCC in the preterm delivery is moderate with wide CI approaching the no effect mark and this was already mentioned in the manuscript together with a suggested explanation that PCC is expected to be effective in reducing early preterm delivery rather than late one.
3. All interventions we consider as PCC have been well defined in the methodology section and the systematic review and meta-analysis were performed to evaluate the effectiveness of these individual interventions rather than a program, so it is out of the scope of the review to evaluate a complete program.

In addition to the following:
1. A table for the excluded studies and the reason for their exclusion has been added as Appendix 3.
2. Review of the Forest plots after inclusion of the two eligible studies has been done.

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