Reviewer's report

Title: Growth factor concentrations and their placental mRNA expression are modulated in gestational diabetes mellitus: possible interactions with macrosomia

Version: 4 Date: 2 November 2009

Reviewer: K.S. Joseph

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Minor Essential Revisions

The authors have responded well to Dr. Lindsay's comments.

Re Dr. Lindsay's comment that they were selectively citing the literature, the authors have now provided one reference that contradicts their findings (ref 42).

They have also carried out a regression analysis in response to Dr. Lindsay's request and provide the results in Table 2. However, neither the correlation analysis (Table 3), nor the regression analysis (Table 2) is mentioned in the Results or Discussions sections. Also, the regression analysis could be improved with some minor changes (see comments to authors).

1. The outcome variable that should be modeled should be birthweight in grams (not kilograms). The results will not change though Table 2 will become easier to read and interpret.

2. The authors should consider adding the infant’s sex (male/female) in the regression model.

3. In Table 2, the row 'Interval of confidence 95%' should be labeled '95% confidence interval'. This should not extend above 'B' (it should be above the 2 columns currently labeled 'Inferior born' and 'Superior born'). The column labeled 'B' should be relabeled 'Mean difference in birth weight (g)'. The terms 'Inferior born' and 'Superior born' should be edited to 'Lower bound' and 'Upper bound'.

4. Table 2 and 3 should be reversed i.e., please present the correlation results before the regression results.

The manuscript would benefit from being copyedited. There are numerous instances where the language used is not appropriate (eg., Abstract 30 woman instead of 30 women; control ladies instead of women). Also, the use of the term diabetic women should be curtailed as it could be mistaken for preexisting diabetes mellitus rather than gestational diabetes (i.e., use gestational diabetes or GDM throughout).

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests