Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends of Preterm birth and Low Birth Weight in Japan: Hospital-Based Study

Version: 1 Date: 23 September 2012

Reviewer: Kazuo Itabashi

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. Although the authors show that birth rates of LBW and preterm infants have changed between 1997 and 2010, the reason why the authors divided 4 intervals of study period is unknown.
2. The authors concluded that medically indicated cesarean section contributed to improving neonatal outcome in LBW and preterm infants. However, they did not show any maternal complications medically indicated cesarean section.
3. P values are lacked in Table1 to 5.

Minor essential revision
4. “Near term” #“late preterm”

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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