Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Iron Content on the Tolerability of Prenatal Multivitamins in Pregnancy

Version: 5 Date: 11 March 2008

Reviewer: Anne-Louise Heath

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. I remain to be convinced that the comparison reported in the paper is of iron content alone, because the 60mg and 35mg tablets were different in volume (392 vs 576mm3), shape (round vs oblong), iron compound (sulphate vs fumarate) and regimen (1/d vs 2/d) as well as iron content. I suggest that Discussion paragraph 5 is reworked so that it addresses this issue explicitly, e.g. "The tablets differed in a number of ways in addition to iron content, namely: volume, shape, iron compound and regimen." Then discusses the extent to which each of these additional factors is likely to have impacted on differences in adherence between the two groups. This is particularly important because the smaller volume and less frequent tablet taking required for the 60mg tablet may have favoured adherence to the 60mg tablet in spite of its greater iron content.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS:

1. Please clarify statement made in Results para 1 lines 12 to 14 - it is unclear why the number of people commencing supplementation with the 35mg tablet suggests that the baseline differences in constipation and issues with tablet size are negligible.

2. The revised table 1 shows substantial differences in baseline tablet swallowing difficulties between the groups - this is probably in favour of the 35mg group (the smaller tablet) but the possible impact on the results should be discussed.

3. Add the "[Proportion who had swallowing difficulties with tablet size before starting assigned multivitamin]" to table 4.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests