Reviewer's report

Title: Cigarette smoking and risk of gestational diabetes: a systematic review of observational studies.

Version: 1 Date: 19 October 2008

Reviewer: Cuilin Zhang

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Dr. Wendland and associate aimed to examine the association of cigarette smoking and the risk of gestational diabetes by systematically reviewing epidemiological evidence. The research question is interesting and of public health significance. The manuscript was clearly written in general and the discussion is balanced.

Minor Essential Revisions

My comments consist of minor editorial suggestions:
1) page 1, Abstract, last sentence—As a meta-analysis of observational studies, causality is unlikely to be addressed. Would suggest remove the phrase ‘but to help investigate causality’
2) page 2, paragraph 1, line 1: the definition of GDM: insert ‘first’ between or and recognition
3) page 2, paragraph 2, line 1: predisposing factors should be “advanced age, non-Caucasian race/ethnicity, and family history of type 2 diabetes”
4) page 3, paragraph 1, line 3: insert ‘in’ between “36%” and “UK”

Major Compulsory Revisions

The diagnosis criteria of GDM changed over years and varied across studies included in the present study. The authors acknowledged this fact in the discussion, but did not discuss how the inconsistency of the diagnosis criteria across studies may affect the meta-analysis results on cigarette smoking-GDM association and in which direction. Would suggest ‘add one or two sentences’ to discuss this.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.