Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of maternal calcium intake during pregnancy on children blood pressure. A systematic review of the literature.

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Reviewer: Malinee Laopaiboon

Reviewer's report:

General

The paper is interesting but there are some points unclear in methodology and results.

1. The authors did not define the cut of point of hypertension, which is very important as it is the main outcome.
2. Table 4 shows data of offspring blood pressures in four levels of calcium intake of the women. It was unclear which groups provide the data of the crude and adjusted effect size.
3. The results of pooled effect size for studies in children at 1 year or more may be not appropriate as the studies were different in various methodological aspects, especially the various period of outcome measure.
4. Conclusion of the paper seems to be based on the statistical significant result of binary outcome of the Belizan's trial (1997). However, the result of difference of means systolic blood pressure of the trial at the same time (7 years of age) was not significant -1.4 (-3.2 to 0.5). The difference of the results direction between two scaling measurements of the same outcome must be discussed. But this is not found in the paper.

The results of this paper is not convincing for the evidence in supporting the association of calcium maternal intake during pregnancy and offspring blood pressure.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests