Reviewer’s report

Title: Decreasing sperm quality: a global problem?

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Reviewer: Stefano Rosso

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript critically reviews previously published meta-analyses on sperm quality.

The authors make an important service to the critical appraisal of the issue highlighting problems and biases that affected previous studies and their interpretation.

It is a well written paper that adheres to the journal standard, and I have only one minor suggestion:

Among the cited biases, I would also add that relating to the statistical methods used by previous meta-analyses. As figure 1 shows calculating a linear regression from data so differently clustered is really stretching statistics too much. Indeed original meta-analyses (those by Carlsen and Swan: references 1 to 3 in manuscript) indicated an adjusted R2 ranging from a mere 0.56 to 0.61, already indicating a poor fit.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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