Reviewer's report

Title: Randomized placebo-controlled trial of high-dose prenatal third-trimester vitamin D3 supplementation in Bangladesh: the AViDD trial

Version: 6 Date: 25 January 2013

Reviewer: Margherita Cantorna

Reviewer's report:

This is a well done study that reports on the effectiveness of high dose vitamin D supplementation in Bangladesh women in their third trimester to bolster neonatal vitamin D levels.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. It is not clear as written when blood, urine etc. were sampled in terms of how long after the weekly vitamin D supplementation. This could be critical in terms of does a spike in calcium occur 24-48 h after the dose? And is the 25(OH)D3 level different 1 d, 2 d, 3 d etc after the vitamin D dose. Same for other important markers (PTH etc).

2. In the discussion it is inaccurate to try and equate 35,000 IU/wk to 5,000 IU/d. Certainly by day 6 it is unlikely that any of the vitamin D would still be absorbed from the supplement. In particular the last sentence that claims no observed adverse effect level of 5000 IU/d based on weekly supplementation cannot be made.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no conflicts or competing interest to declare.