Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 7  **Date:** 27 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Margherita Cantorna

**Reviewer's report:**

For the most part the authors have answered the questions raised in the first review and adequately revised the manuscript.

However, I completely disagree with the argument to justify stating that dosing with 5000 IU/d is the same as 35,000 IU/wk even if 7 X5000 = 35000. Furthermore, in the rebuttal the statement about all of the dose being absorbed at once is just not correct. This can be measured and I don't know of a single compound that is completely absorbed following ingestion. Furthermore what evidence is there to support that 25(OH)D3 is hanging around (where) waiting to be released. In the end the changes to the first part of the statement are fine but the sentence below is extremely confusing and should be deleted.

"This study contributes pharmacokinetic data relevant to South Asia, as well as preliminary evidence in support of a vitamin D3 no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) of 35,000 IU/week (pharmacologically equivalent to 5,000 IU/day) in the third trimester of pregnancy."

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No conflicts or competing interests to declare.