Author's response to reviews

Title: Lifestyle interventions for overweight and obese pregnant women to improve pregnancy outcome: systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors:

Eugene Oteng-Ntim (eugene.oteng-ntim@gstt.nhs.uk)
Rajesh Varma (rajesh.varma@gstt.nhs.uk)
Helen Crocker (helen.crocker@ucl.ac.uk)
Lucilla Poston (lucilla.poston@kcl.ac.uk)
Pat Doyle (pat.doyle@lshtm.ac.uk)

Version: 2 Date: 8 March 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Many thanks for considering our manuscript for publication.

In this revised manuscript we have addressed all the concerns and comments and incorporated this into the manuscript. We are very grateful to the first referee for her positive comments about the study. We concur with her that obesity in pregnancy is increasingly common as a clinical problem and one associated with well documented risks.

We also concur with her that our findings highlight the lack of high quality evidence on which to base clinical practice. We very much value her review and positive comment to the study and the manuscript.

We are also very grateful to Professor Helen Skoutaris for her constructive comments. We are thankful to her for her comments regarding the analysis and interpretation of the study findings being good.

We appreciate and has indeed taken her concern about the search terms and strategy on board and even though within our previous manuscript we described that we searched up to April 2011 and secondly our study did not include previous systematic reviews, we have taken the comments on board and have added the search terms, antenatal, prenatal, gestation, intervention, randomised control trial and we have now depicted the search strategy on medline in table 1. The search strategy has been performed up to February 2012 and it yielded four more randomised control trials. This has been incorporated into the revised manuscript. We have now cited the two suggested systematic reviews; Sui et al and Tanentsaph et al in the revised version. Thus we can categorically say that we have revised the manuscript accordingly and ensured that these recent reviews are cited and on balance we have done a robust search in terms of the included studies.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely