The manuscript reports a study in which Perrin and co-workers studied a cohort in Jerusalem to test their hypothesis that gestational diabetes could be a risk factor for pancreatic cancer. The study was designed and conducted properly with sound data analysis and interpretation. Their finding supports the possibility of diabetes being involved in the pathogenesis of pancreatic cancer.

Major revision:
1. The conversion (p.4, lines 9-15) of diabetic and pre-diabetic diagnoses to insulin dependent diabetes and gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) needs more evidence-based support. The following statement: “In that era, pregnant women were screened for glycosuria…glucose tolerance test” sounds that all subjects involved in this study may not necessarily be handled by the screening strategy. Otherwise, the glycouric and GTT results, if any, may be included to rationalize the conversion of diabetic diagnoses. Incidentally, 13 patients excluded for having both GDM and insulin dependent diabetes (p.6, line 12) were conceivably diagnosed as being both pre-diabetic and diabetic. This is confusing and has to be clarified.
2. As the authors have discussed in this paper, a link between gestational diabetes and pancreatic cancer may come from hyperglycaemia that lingers on following GDM. However, it is also possible that the 137 insulin-dependent diabetic women who were presumably put in the non-GDM control group had even more severe hyperglycaemia than GDM subjects. The authors may acknowledge this possibility.

Minor revisions
3. Insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM)/non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) and type-1/type-2 diabetes are two sets of definitions for two types of diabetes. The authors used the former set in Methods and the latter in Background (e.g. Type II) and Discussion (e.g. type 2). Be consistent with one (and within one, e.g. type 2 or Type II).
4. The authors have not discussed possible involvement of changed circulating insulin levels associated hyperglycemia in pathogenesis of pancreatic cancer. This topic is optional for a similar study. As no pancreatic cancer was seen in subjects with IDDM (featuring beta-cell failure), the topic is more relevant in this study.
5. The sentence starting on Page 5, line 13 is unclear and grammatically demanding. The last line on Page 10 has a misprinting.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests