Reviewer's report

Title: Serum screening in first trimester to predict pre-eclampsia, small for gestational age and preterm delivery: Systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 16 February 2015

Reviewer: Rebecca Allen

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. Grammatical errors in the 1st sentence of the abstract. Change earlier to early and have to has.

2. In the methods section of the abstract please add "and" contact with experts.

3. There appears to be a discrepancy between documentation in the abstract results section that states PIGF to be the best predictor of preeclampsia and the results section under PP13 which states that PP13 is the most accurate predictor of early preeclampsia. This needs clarifying.

4. 1st paragraph of background please delete the s after two to eightfold.

5. More detail is needed in the methods section regarding the search terms used so this could be replicated by a reader if wanted.

6. It needs to be stated over what time frame the studies were looked at.

7. Within the results section you should include how many women were in the studies identified. I.E total number of women in 103 studies and then within the sections examining the different biomarkers and outcomes you should again describe how many women were included in the data set.

8. Throughout the manuscript 1th needs to be changed to 1st.

9. On the figures there's headings where it says "continuous" what does this mean? Please clarify.

10. In the last paragraph of the results section on betaHCG it states that the best predictor for preterm delivery was hCG <0.5MoM and the best predictor for preterm delivery <34 weeks is a hCG>95th centile. This seems odd and is probably due to the heterogeneity and the small number of studies but further discussion of this should be made in the discussion section.

11. Following on from the above comment there should be more discussion in the discussion section regarding the strengths and limitations of the study.

12. There needs to be a PRISMA checklist.

Overall this was interesting to read however difficult to draw any conclusions due to the heterogeneity of the studies and also lack of information provided on the study sizes. There has also been other metanalyses examining the same topic e.g. Allen et al. Abnormal blood biomarkers in early pregnancy are associated...
with preeclampsia: a meta-analysis. EJOG 182 (2014) 194-201
I therefore don't feel this adds much more to the current published literature

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

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