Reviewer’s report

Title: The association between temporal changes in the use of obstetrical intervention and small-for-gestational age live births

Version: 2 Date: 14 June 2015

Reviewer: Lotte Hardman

Reviewer’s report:

Positive

Large cohort with clearly defined aim to investigate the role of obstetric intervention on temporal declines in SGA rates 1990-2010 in the USA. Thorough explanation of analytical tools – Modified Kitagawa decomposition, which provided a reliably breakdown of results and enabled a conclusion on GA associations over time. A systematically conducted and relevant paper.

Major essential revisions

Nil

Minor revisions

Reduction in SGA due to a left shift in gestational age distribution were assumed to primarily reflect obstetrician intervention, are there any other factors that could cause a left shift? May be helpful to mention research that has looked at relevant risk factors and the association with spontaneous onset of labour.

Weak conclusion, with repeats the already over wordy results. Would be good to have further analytical discussion of the found data here. Further recommendations would also be beneficial

Discretionary revisions

Exclusion of babies born with congenital anomalies. The rational could be explained as these are an important at risk group for SGA and decisions on labour augmentation may well be made with or without knowing of anomalies.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests