Reviewer's report

Title: Exercise Intervention During Pregnancy Can Be Used To Manage Weight Gain And Improve Pregnancy Outcomes In Women With Gestational Diabetes Mellitus

Version: 3
Date: 2 August 2015

Reviewer: Shanshan Han

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for inviting me to review the updated manuscript. Overall, the manuscript has been improved greatly since the last version, especially for the “Discussion” section. Please see below for detailed comments.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Title:
# Considering the study design and the concerns around the self-reported diet and exercise intervention, it may be inappropriate to describe as “exercise can be used to manage weight gain and improve pregnancy outcomes”.

Methods:
# Thanks for the new study details. Given the new information provided, it would be better if 1) a bit further details about the “systemic cluster sampling method” used; 2) attach a copy of the survey used for the study as a supplementary document.

Discussion:
In general, the Discussion section has been improved greatly.
However, some sentences (especially for those interpreting findings) may still need further rewarding or rephrasing. For example, Line 242-244 “Another main finding of our study was that exercise intervention during pregnancy could substantially combat GDM-related adverse outcomes, notably, preterm birth, low birth weight and macrosomia.” For a retrospective, observational study, with self-reported lifestyle modification data, the evidence presented in the manuscript may not be robust and strong enough to state a definitive effect of exercise on pregnancy outcomes.

Minor Essential Revisions

#Line 91-92 “15194 pregnant women delivered from June 20th to November 30th, 2013, at these hospitals”

It is inappropriate to include these details under the “Method” section. It would be better to include such information under the “Result” section.
A questionnaire was designed to obtain information by interviewing all the pregnant women and collecting medical records the day after they gave birth.”

It may be better to say “A questionnaire was designed to obtain information by interviewing all the pregnant women and reviewing their medical records the day after they gave birth.”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 that I have no competing interests