Author’s response to reviews

Title: Maternal body mass index and risk of neonatal adverse outcomes in China: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Authors:

Lei Liu (liulei_dmu@163.com)
Yanan Ma (ynma@cmu.edu.cn)
Ningning Wang (zlxwnn@163.com)
Wenjing Lin (dmu_lwj@163.com)
Yang Liu (yliu0568@cmu.edu.cn)
Deliang Wen (dlwen@cmu.edu.cn)

Version: 3 Date: 14 Feb 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Reply to the Reviewers

Thank you very much for your interest in our manuscript entitled “Maternal body mass index and risk of neonatal adverse outcomes in China: a systematic review and meta-analysis.” To aid in the re-review of this manuscript, we have included a point-by-point response to each comment. The reviewers’ comments are italicized and placed in square brackets.

We appreciate the suggestions and comments by the reviewers. As a consequence of the valuable suggestions, we believe that our manuscript has been much improved.

[Editor Comments:]

[1. Please format your manuscript to include the following headings: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions.]
Thank you for your careful work. We have checked carefully to ensure that all section headings are corrected in the newly uploaded manuscript. (BACKGROUND, page 2, line 41; METHODS, page 3, line 45; RESULTS, page 6, line 41; DISCUSSION, page 9, line 53; CONCLUSIONS, page 11, line 24)

[2. Please note that all authors should be named by using their initials rather than full names, and also include a statement clearly indicating that all authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript, in the Authors Contributions section.]

Thank you! To clarify this point, we have corrected the Authors Contributions section as follows:

“LL: Research design, Literature search, Data collection, Data analysis, Manuscript writing; YM: Data collection, Data analysis; NW: Data analysis, Manuscript writing; WL: Literature search, Data extraction; YL: Project development, Data analysis; DW: Project development, Data management, Quality control. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript and participated in revising the paper. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript and participated in revising the paper.”

(AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS, page 12, line 20)

[3. In the Funding section, please also state the role of the funding body in the design of the study, collection, analysis, interpretation of data, and in writing the manuscript.]

Thank you! To clarify this point, we have added the Funding section as follows:

“The funding body managed the reviewing proposal of this study and they did not have any role in data collection, analysis, interpretation of data and in writing this manuscript.”

(FUNDING, page 12, line 14)
Thank you! In the newly uploaded manuscript, we have removed the PRISMA checklist from the additional files and added relevant statements in the manuscript.

“This systematic review and meta-analysis was performed in accordance with the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-analysis Protocols (PRISMA).”

(METHODS, page 3, line 47)

[5. Figure Legend - Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.]

Thank you! We have checked carefully to ensure that a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References.

[6. Please proofread and ensure that when you upload your revised submission that it is in the final form for publication. Please remove any tracked changes, colored text, or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.]

Thank you! We have proofread the manuscript according to your requirements.

[Angela Vinturache, Pd.D (Reviewer 3) Comments:] The authors have responded to the suggestions and comments from the reviewers, their manuscript is considerably improved. Several minor comments are included below:
< Abstract>

[1. The conclusion misses half of the findings of this SR. Form the results it appears that both, raised as well as low BMI is associated with adverse neonatal outcomes. This is stated in the first sentence of the Discussion section.

Management of weight during pregnancy might help reduce their adverse neonatal outcomes in future intervention studies or programmes.]

Thank you for your careful work and instructive advices. Accordingly, we have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript. (ABSTRACT, page 2, line 31)

< Background>

[1. Overall, could have been more focused on lying the foundation for the importance of this study for pregnancy health of Chinese women. Specific comments: First sentence: Obesity is a global health problem.]

Thanks you for your correction. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript. (BACKGROUND, page 2, line 43)

[2. The adverb in third sentence is inadequately used: "Consequently, rates of obesity in pregnancy are increasing, particularly in developed countries" ]

Thank you for your instructive suggestions. Accordingly, we have removed this adverb, as follows:

“Among adults of all ages, women generally have higher rates of obesity than men [2]. Rates of obesity in pregnancy are increasing, particularly in developed countries [3, 4].”

(BACKGROUND, page 2, line 46)
[3. The statement regarding China's policy on the number of children appears isolated and not connected to the context.]

Thanks you for your comments. According to your advice, We have deleted the statement about the China's policy on the number of children in the newly uploaded manuscript.

< Results>

[1. Almost all the sentences in this section have this structure "Author (i.e.Huang) et al.[63] reported a prospective ….". By the end of this section this becomes tiresome. Also, the authors may explain how the data from these studies was presented.]

We appreciate this question. According to your advice, we have modified this section to present the data as a table.

“The remaining 7 studies were excluded from the meta analyses due to a lack of sufficient dichotomous data [57-63]. Table 4 presented results of the seven studies, most of which were consistent with our analysis.”

(RESULTS, page 9, line 39)

< Discussion>

[1. The statement "In addition, underweight women have an increased risk of delivering infants with SGA and LBW, which may also be due to malnutrition or infectious diseases requires references and is out of context, since these comorbidities were not assessed in the study. ]

Thank you for your careful work and instructive advices. We have rephrased this sentence as follows:

“In addition, underweight women have an increased risk of delivering infants with SGA and LBW. Therefore, both extremes of maternal BMI range may influence the risk of neonatal adverse outcomes.”
[2. The sentence "PTB is the leading cause of neonatal morbidity and mortality, which are exacerbated by decreasing lengths of gestation" does not convey the message the authors are looking for. I suggest being re-written.

There are several grammar errors, including missing words that authors may attend at a later stage.]

Thank you for your careful work and instructive advices. Accordingly, we have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript.

“PTB is the leading cause of neonatal morbidity and mortality [64].”

(DISCUSSION, page 10, line 16)

[Victoria Eley (Reviewer 4):]

Thank you for the opportunity to look at the revised manuscript which is much improved.

I have listed some specific suggestions that need attention, mainly relating to clarity of expression and grammatical corrections.

[1. Pg 3Line 44: "Children undergo health examinations as newborns,…"]

Thank you for your correction. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript. (BACKGROUND, page 3, line 34)
Thank you for your correction. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript. (METHODS, page 4, line 48)

Thank you for your careful work. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript.

“We applied the three different standards, which were used across all regions of China, ….”
(METHODS, page 4, line 47)

Thank you for your correction. We’re very sorry that it was a mistake in our writing. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript. (Page 9, line 60)

Thank you for your instructive suggestions. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript.
“The analysis results showed that there was a positive correlation between maternal overweight/obesity and excessive fetal growth.”

(DISCUSSION, page 10, line 1)

[6. Pg 11 Line 25: "Mothers who are overweight or obesity" each time this phrase is used, it must be checked for the correct grammatical context.]

Thank you for your careful work. We have already made corrections in the newly uploaded manuscript. (DISCUSSION, page 10, line 3).

[7. Pg 11 Line 51: "Women who are overweight or obese"]

Thank you for your correction. We’re very sorry that it was a mistake in our writing. We have already made modifications in the newly uploaded manuscript. (Page 10, line 22)

[8. Pg 12 Line 51: "In summary, being overweight or obesity obese was associated with an increased risk of macrosomia, LGA, PTB and neonatal asphyxia, while being underweight increased the risk of LBW and SGA." This sentence does not make sense. Please rephrase such that it is the maternal overweight/obesity that is associated with neonatal outcomes as listed.]

Thank you for your comments. To clarify this point, we have rephrased this sentence as follows:

“In summary, maternal overweight/obesity is associated with macrosomia, LGA, PTB and neonatal asphyxia, while maternal underweight is associated with LBW and SGA.”

(CONCLUSIONS, page 11, line 29)