Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 20 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Kate Cheney

Reviewer's report:

Introduction

Page 2 "consideration for women who have pregnancy plan to reduce the possibility of fetal birth adverse outcomes...". You might want to read the Lancet series to be clearer about this

Page 2..."Therefore, Overweight and obesity is an increasing burden to China, while underweight is also another problem among Chinese women of childbearing age. " Do you mean that overweight and obesity is a burden generally of specifically women of reproductive age?

Page 3 From line 24 - the description of your aim is very unclear and too long.

Materials and Methods

Page 5 line 9..."region of the study origin..."...to clarify, you mean within China?

How did studies collect maternal BMI and what was the gestation at BMI collection? (page 6 line 7 - is this what you mean?), or was it pre-pregnancy?

was/ is antenatal care standardised across China? Are these all ethnic chinese woman?

re outcome variables: was there consistency in reporting outcomes, such as LGA, macrosomia etc as some may have used variations i.e. macrosomia >4000g verses >4.500 g

Referencing

someone needs to go back and look at this as it is not consistent or correct

Conclusion

"Therefore, we consider that abnormal weight during gestation not only an individual problem but also a social concern"...this was not your aim and are you talking about increased GWG or weight gain between pregnancies?
I don’t think you can claim by simply losing weight this will avoid the outcome variables all together, as I am sure you are aware.

Overall comments

Throughout the manuscript there are issues with language (minor) which need attention, and the manuscript should be further checked for grammatical errors.

You may need to consider when you write about the attributed outcomes to BMI etc, really is it more increased associated proportions? Are you really presenting prevalence and risk not attributable fractions?

The manuscript needs to be edited and be made clearer to the reader what exactly you are showing, and although the methodology is well written there is ambiguity for non-statistical readers which leads to more questions.

Please be mindful of pejorative language around obesity- women who are overweight or obese is prefered to overweight and obese women.

What you have done is amazing and must have been a great deal of work.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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