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: 30 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Dazhi Fan

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to review this paper: Maternal body mass index and risk of obstetric and neonatal adverse outcomes in China: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

The paper is nicely written and the results are very important on public health and social concern. I would like to make the following comments and suggestions to improve the quality of the paper and to make results more easily accessible for the reader.

Comments:

1. This meta-analysis is focus on Chinese women, and most included studies are written in Chinese. It is better to provide search strategies and results for the Chinese databases in the additional file.

2. Some included studies provided RR as the outcome. This meta-analysis chose OR as the pooled outcome. It should explain and provide how they change the RR and OR.

3. Why "P values less than 0.01 was considered statistic significant"? Was multiple corrections used? Please elaborate on it in the statistical analysis.

4. Pregnancy complications, such as GDM, maternal age (> 35 years or not) and pregnancy history (primipara vs. multipara) may affect the outcome. If the author can further analyze, this meta-analysis will be better.
Minor comments


2. The references should be added in the sentences in the first part in introduction: "Among adults of all ages, women generally have higher rates of obesity than men." and "while underweight is also another problem among Chinese women of childbearing age"

3. Line 26, page 3 "the association between maternal BMI and antenatal adverse outcomes" can be written as "the association between maternal BMI and neonatal adverse outcomes"

4. The number of studies and list references are inconformity. "According to birth weight categories, LBW was investigated in 15 studies [16-19…, LGA in 7 studies [15, 20, 30, 34, 36, 38]" line 43-48, page 6. Please check it.

5. Line 29, page 6, "Forty-six" should write "forty-six".

6. The number of included studies should be added in table 2 and 3, respectively.

7. The outcomes did involve neonatal. The title may be changed "Maternal body mass index and risk of neonatal adverse outcomes in China: a systematic review and meta-analysis"

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.

Yes

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 am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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