Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 04 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Victoria Eley

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. The majority of the previous reviewer’s queries have been answered, however there are a couple outstanding. There remain some language errors and errors in the references that need to be corrected.

Summary - a revision of a manuscript with significant changes: "Maternal body mass index and risk of neonatal adverse outcomes in China: a systematic review and meta-analysis"

References: errors of formatting remain - capital letters of journal names.

PRISMA checklist has been completed as requested

Tables have been updated according to reviewer suggestions (number of studies)

Abstract:

Results: comparing BMI with weight. Should be consistently comparing weight or BMI for clarity.

Conclusion: focus is on neonatal not obstetric outcome

Introduction: (could include in introduction that antenatal care is standardized across China, as per previous reviewer query.)

Pge 2 Line 36 - replace "receiving the greatest attention among..problems" with "a global health problem".

Line 45 - "Consequently"

Line 53 - increasing health burden

Line 59 - increasing rate

Page 3 line 17 - more consistent to continue to refer to body mass index
Page 4 line 4 - "frome" should be "from"

Page 4 line 17 - consistent with previous reviewer's questions - should include here the handling of papers with data from overlapping populations. The question was answered but not attended to in the text.

Page 4 line 50 - consistent with previous reviewer's question, should include here that these are "standard definitions used across all regions of China". The question was answered but not attended to in the text.

Page 4 line 57 - how were fetal distress and neonatal asphyxia defined?

Page 5 line 2 - include reference for "the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scale for cohort studies."

Page 6 line 20 - are all the women included in all the studies ethnic Chinese? - previous reviewer's query has not been answered.

Page 10 line 37 - this one should be "overweight or obese"

Page 10 line 55 - "born to women who are"

Page 11 line 1 - "additionally"

Page 11 line 17 - BMI "measured" or "obtained" before or during the first trimester

Page 11 line 48 - this one should be "overweight or obese"

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.

No
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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