**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** The effects of magnesium-zinc-calcium-vitamin D co-supplementation on biomarkers of inflammation, oxidative stress and pregnancy outcomes in gestational diabetes

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 31 Oct 2018

**Reviewer:** Lucyna Wozniak

**Reviewer’s report:**

The statistical analysis requires few additional data provided to conclude

Data in Table 2 in the presented form are fragmented and difficult to interpret whether the given values and their significance are indeed the result of supplementation.

In particular, magnesium concentration is only given as a change within 6 weeks of trial (P value for supplementation/time); providing information that within a 6 weeks trial there are different changes in Mg concentration. However, crucial for analysis of the influence of supplementation would be differences in concentration of Mg between within the two groups (at start and end of the trial) as measured by P-values.

Whether the concentration of magnesium was significantly different between groups is one thing, but was the change a result of supplementation - in other words the influence of time - important? This can be questioned at this stage. In the group with supplementation at the beginning was 1.8mg / dL and after 6 weeks was 1.8 mg / dL. Even for the 0.1 increase reported, this increase in relation to the average 1.8, and SD 0.1 and 0.2, for 30 patients this effect is definitely not important.

Moreover, analogous data for zinc and calcium are lack in manuscript, so in conclusion, Table 2 is not valid for the given conclusions without further information (presented in tables or diagrams with P-values for placebo and supplementation for major measured biomarkers ).

Tests post-hoc for ANNOVA analysis in Table are recommended which would demonstrate correlations and differences between subgroups.

Additionally, graphical presentation (Figures) of results (Boxplots, median; interquartile range; ranges (excluding outliers) would give deeper inside and support conclusions

**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?
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No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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