Reviewer’s report

Title: The Association between Gestational Weight Gain Z-Score and Stillbirth: A Case-Control Study

Version: 2 Date: 14 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Gabriel Shapiro

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript examines the association between gestational weight gain and stillbirth using data from a stillbirth case-control study. The authors have responded in detail to a range of concerns and suggestions from the previous reviewers, and they have provided a copious array of sensitivity analyses to support the robustness of the findings. I have only several small points to raise.

The authors state that they calculated odds ratio contrasts of interest by comparing selected GWG z-scores to a referent GWG z-score of 0. The figures show that the selected GWG z-scores generally range from -2.5 to 2.5 in intervals of 0.5. It would be helpful if the selection of GWG z-scores were explicitly stated in the methods. In addition, Figure 3a shows the lowest GWG z-scores of -2.0, not -2.5. Why was the lower bound different for this analysis than for the others? The narrow confidence intervals around the estimates at lower GWG z-scores on Figure 3a suggest there would be adequate sample size to look at a z-score of -2.5 in women with normal weight BMI, as was done for the other models.

Minor points

In the abstract and in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the results, please ensure the spacing around "=" signs is consistent (e.g., line 200, "-1.5 vs. 0 SD =1.46"; line 203, "SD= 1.35").

Line 286 - I suggest: "Our dataset also lacked information on weight of the placenta and amniotic fluid, which typically weigh 2-3 pounds combined"

Lines 326-237 - I suggest: "increased odds of stillbirth at low GWG z-scores"

Table 1 - Live births are marked as 3.3% singleton. Is this a typographical error?
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

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:  

Acceptable

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