Reviewer’s report

Title: Does Obesity Have Detrimental Effects on IVF Treatment Outcomes?

Version: 4  Date: 9 April 2015

Reviewer: Deirdre Zander-Fox

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? No. The study was designed as a retrospective study and some confounding and bias are common in those studies. Some confounders were not evaluated and other important variables as abdominal obesity, adipokines or the uterine environment were not considered.

3. Are the data sound? No they are data similar to other previously reported

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation? Yes

5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes

6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes

7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Only partially

8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? They miss some published papers in this field

9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes

10. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

This is a very interesting study aimed to determine to investigate the influence of body mass index (BMI) on in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment outcomes in a cohort of women undergoing their first IVF. In spite of several researches have tried assess the effect of obesity in IVF outcomes, but contradictory results have been reported. So the study aim is interesting but I find some methodological problems.

First, the study was designed as a retrospective study and some confounding
and bias are common in those studies as the authors stated in their paper, this
design prevented them controlling for other potential confounders, for instance
the evaluation of the role of abdominal obesity or the uterine environment.

-How the sample size was calculate?

-Due to several “standar stimulation protocols” were used, it could be interesting
to report the number of patients included in the different protocol

-What were the criteria for prescribing the gonadotropin start and total dosage?
Due to age, basal FSH and AF were similar in all groups, were only BMI the only
reason to prescribe higher doses of gonadotropins?

-It would be possible to contact to patients in order to know what was the
live-birth rate?

-Table 2 footnote must be rewrite. It is no clear to know if the significant
differences are between obesity and normal weigh, between obesity and
overweight or between normal weight and overweight

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests