Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated risk of stillbirth in males: systematic review and meta-analysis of more than 30 million births

Version: 1
Date: 23 June 2014

Reviewer: Virginia M. Miller

Reviewer's report:

This meta-analysis of sex of stillborn babies is interesting and provides important data which can be used to direct practice and policy.

Essential revisions:

1. Title: is the correct preposition "in" or "of" males?
2. Throughout the manuscript the word "gender" needs to be replaced by "sex" as the only variable investigated is the biological sex of the infant.
3. The Conclusion to the abstract is awkward. Stillbirth risk is elevated in males...sounds like the males are delivery babies. "male risk" or stillbirth of males?
4. Maybe some reference in the Background should be made to a general definition of stillbirths. This is defined in the Methods but perhaps something here about lack of uniform reporting and definitions would help.
5. What is "grey" literature?
6. Is the goal to "improve" stillbirths or to "decrease the number of" pp 5 and 6.
7. p. 9 "among" studies.
8. p. 11 :gendered-biased sex selection? Why not just "sex selection" is it gender biased or culturally biased?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.