Reviewer's report

Title: Antimalarial drugs for preventing malaria during pregnancy and the risk of low birth weight (LBW): A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized and quasi-randomized trials.

Version: 1  Date: 30 April 2015

Reviewer: Darren C Greenwood

Reviewer's report:

This is a well conducted and presented systematic review, on an interesting topic.

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None.

- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. The box sizes / areas on the forest plots should represent the amount of information, i.e. be in proportion to the weights. The tick marks on the horizontal axis should be round numbers, e.g. 0.5, 0.2, 1.0.
2. The risk of bias assessment should be included in a table, e.g. supplement 3.
3. There is no such thing as p=0.00. This probably means p<0.01.
4. Some exploration should be conducted into how the excluded outlying study differed from the others, e.g. design, population, etc.
5. Where meta-analysis and forest plots are stratified, it is useful to present the test for between-subgroup heterogeneity. As far as I can see, the authors comment on the results within each subgroup, and how they differ from each other, but have not presented this formal test of whether their differences could be just chance.

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

None.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.