Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of maternal pre-pregnancy BMI and weekly gestational weight gain on the development of infants

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Reviewer: Indu Mani

Reviewer's report:

Page 2 Conclusions: Our results indicated the positive effects of pre-pregnancy and prenatal nutrition on the physical growth of infants. For the mental development of infants, the effect of weekly gestational weight gain was identified, but the effect appears to decline over time in rural China.

This could be rewritten as follows:

Our results indicate positive effects of pre-pregnancy and prenatal nutrition on the physical growth of infants. Weekly gestational weight gain of the pregnant women had a positive effect on the mental development of the infants, but this effect appears to decline over time.

Page 4 line 10: The present cohort study started in 2004. The singleton neonates whose mothers participated in a controlled, cluster-randomized, double-blind trial conducted between 2002 and 2006 and born between 2004 were included in the present study.

This could be rewritten as follows: The present study was a subset of a larger cluster-randomized, double blind trial conducted between 2002 and 2006 in the counties of Changwu and Bing in Shaanxi Province, China. Singleton neonates born only in 2004 were included in the present study.

Page 5 lines 9 and 18: The same sentence is repeated - Due to limited funding, a subgroup of singleton neonates (born in 2004) was included in the present cohort study.

Page 17 lines 15-20. It might be worthwhile to speculate on the reasons why the impact of prenatal nutrition appears to diminish with time. What are the possible external factors that are likely to impact this?

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