Reviewer’s report

Title: Care plans for women pregnant using assisted reproductive technologies: A Systematic Review

Version: 0 Date: 11 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Christina Nowik

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written systematic review of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs). The objective of this study was to "identify the recommended care plans for women becoming pregnant with ART," as outlined in existing CPGs. This is a useful endeavour. Care providers may have to refer to several different documents to receive guidance about the care of women with ART pregnancies. Here, there is an effort to consolidate this information and perform a needs-assessment of future CPGs for the care of this growing population.

The authors attempted to include published and unpublished studies, but included on English and French guidelines. The search strategy seems sound. The authors utilized the AGREE II tool, which is an internationally-accepted instrument used to assess the quality and methodological rigour of CPGs. Their analysis reveals CPGs of generally moderate quality; and outlines common methodological weaknesses, including details about study selection, methods for formulating recommendations, approach to external review, and description of procedure for updating the guideline.

The recommendations in this diverse guidelines have been catalogued into five different categories, with supporting references included in Table 4. One suggestion to improve this table is to include information or values referenced within the recommendation. For example, recommendation 24 from Alexander, 2017, states that TSH elevations should be treated as outlined in "section VII." As interested readers may look to this document as a repository guidance for care plan, including the relevant values would be appreciated.

I would recommend a revision to include the following recommendation from the Okun, 2014 guideline in their analysis: "There is a role for closer obstetric surveillance of women who conceive with assisted human reproduction." This is a clinically important recommendation from one of the few guidelines written directly about pregnancies conceived by ART.

As alluded to above, it is equally important that the authors have identified areas of deficiency in CPGs, including whether there is data/expert opinion regarding high-dose folic acid, low-dose ASA specifically in the ART population, or labour and delivery. A greater discussion by the authors about antenatal surveillance is warranted.
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