

Review of: "Adverse Effect of Diclofenac Exposure during Pregnancy on Mother and Fetus; A Systematic Review"

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Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

Dear editors,

Thank you for considering me for this review.

I note there have been 3 previous reviewers so will focus my comments on the systematic review methods.

- The database searched are incorrectly presented, for example, MEDLINE is a database; PubMed provides access to a free version of MEDLINE. There are issues with the others. See <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04>
- From the PRISMA plot, it appears just 5 studies were identified from the database search. There are a number of suitable related studies reported in well know reference texts (Briggs, Drugs in pregnancy and lactation) that have not been included in this review, suggesting the search was likely inefficient.
- Inclusion criteria for primary studies are vague and were restricted to studies where free text was available, which may have affected the search yield.
- The review question does not have a PICO format. The inclusion of Anderson 2015 is likely inappropriate and may have been avoided with a well formulated review question.
- Synthesis without meta-analysis has recommended best practices for presentation using tabulation/visual displays. See <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-12>
- The conclusion that randomised controlled studies are required is inappropriate given the research question.

I recommend the authors consult the Cochrane Handbook and use the PRISMA guideline in planning, conducting and reporting Systematic Reviews.

<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current>

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