

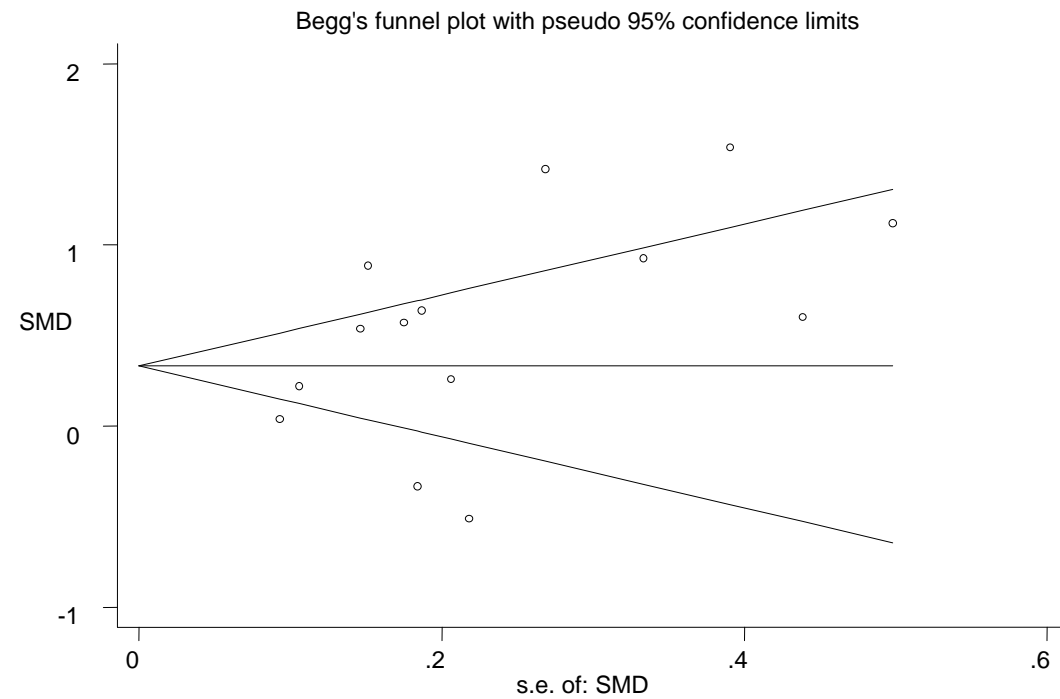
**Table S1.** Appraisal of methodological quality (Newcastle-Ottawa Scale) of included studies

Study	Case-cohort representative	Selection of non-exposed control	Ascertainment of exposure	Outcome negative at start	Comparability by design	Comparability by analysis	Outcome assessment	Duration of follow-up	Score
Kim et al., 2008 <sup>[16]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Lewandowski et al., 2008 <sup>[17]</sup>	×	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Tepper et al., 2010 <sup>[18]</sup>	*	*	*	*	**	*	*	*	9
Chan et al., 2007 <sup>[19]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Liang et al., 2014 <sup>[20]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Krzyzanowska et al., 2008 <sup>[21]</sup>	×	*	*	*	×	×	*	*	5
Klein et al., 2010 <sup>[22]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Su et al., 2010 <sup>[23]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Saucedo et al., 2011 <sup>[24]</sup>	*	*	*	*	×	×	*	*	6
Kuzmicki et al., 2011 <sup>[25]</sup>	*	×	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Maghbooli et al.,	*	*	*	*	×	×	*	*	6

2010 <sup>[26]</sup>										
Nanda et al., 2013 <sup>[27]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8
Abetew et al., 2013 <sup>[28]</sup>	*	*	*	*	×	*	*	*	*	7
Khovidhunkit et al., 2012 <sup>[29]</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8

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\* Indicates that a feature is present; x, that a feature is absent. But for comparability by design this checklist awards a maximum of two stars (\*\*), one (\*) or none if the feature is completely absent(x).



**FIGURE S1**

Begg's funnel plot of standardized mean differences (SMD) in circulating retinol-binding protein 4 between women with gestational diabetes mellitus and normal controls for all the studies included in the meta-analysis ( $P = 0.381$ ).