

Reviewer's report

Title: Breastfeeding cessation and symptoms of anxiety and depression: a longitudinal cohort study

Version: 3 **Date:** 18 September 2011

Reviewer: Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat

Reviewer's report:

Research article: Breastfeeding cessation and symptoms of anxiety and depression: a longitudinal cohort study

Thank you for revising the article as suggested. However, further comments/feedback are the following:

Reviewer's report

- Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract

Line 24-27 The sentence started with "Second we also investigated whether there for. . ." is unclear and need to rewrite.

Line 32: add "at" before six months postpartum and change "was" to "were".

Background

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

The study aims are clear. However, the specific research questions are not described.

While it's important that the study focused on evaluating the relationship between maternal symptoms of anxiety and depression and breastfeeding cessation, other factors are also contributed to this outcome.

- Line 48 – 50 The terms, anxiety and depression used in this study still are not clearly defined.

- Line 55 – 56 Typo on "assoated" Breastfeeding cessation is associated with . . .

- Line 76 – 78 The sentence is incomplete and not clear. In addition, I don't see research questions added.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

Study sample was described much clearer.

3. Are the data sound?

Measures:

- Line 112 The first sentence should say “the variables included in the data analysis were __” in stead of “We retrieved information on __”
- Line 124 As mentioned previously, it would be much clearer to the readers how the scores are interpreted.
- Line 133-135 Since all subjects were followed up for 6 months postpartum , it might be better to say that “bottle feeding referred to those mothers who stopped breastfeeding completely and used only milk supplementation and solids.

Statistics:

- I didn't see that the author addressed the rationales and theoretical consideration for the order of each block of the predictors entered in each regression analysis.

Results:

- Line 203 – 204 The percentage of breastfeeding initiation rates, sustainment of breastfeeding, bottle feeding, and solids should be reported across data collection time (since data were reported every month for 6 months).
- Line 326 - In table 1 is not clearly illustrated the sample characteristics. The table needs frequency and percentages for each variable listed.

Discussion

- Line 203 – 204 The word “absent” should be changed to “inconsistent”.
- Line 228 – 230 The term “breastfeeding pain” should change to “breastfeeding discomfort”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.