Reviewer's report

Title: Breastfeeding and pain relief in full-term neonates during immunization injections: a clinical randomized trial

Version: 1 Date: 17 August 2013

Reviewer: Francis Veyckemans

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting research on non-pharmacologic pain relief during a painful procedure in neonates. There are however some questions to answer at:

Major revision:
- The reviewer is surprised to read that the neonates involved in the study were less than 24h old. (Methods) because at that time only colostrum is produced by the mother's breast and the neonate is usually still on its "learning curve" for sucking.
These two points should be discussed. Moreover, it would be interesting to know what was the mean time since birth when the neonates actually received their injection: 30 min or 12 hours?
- in the Outcome measure section, the authors mention that they were able to determine that the best time to assess pain was 45 seconds after the injection: does this mean that the behavioural changes were the most important at that time? Any correlation with physiological variables such as heart rate?
- in the reviewer's opinion, breastfeeding could interfere in two ways with the assessment of pain using DAN score: it makes the observation of facial expression more difficult and interferes directly with vocalization. Please discuss this point.

Minor revisions:
- abstract, background, L1: breastfeeding on pain
- abstract, results, L6: delete sore
- abstract, conclusion, L1: replace in with during
- p 5, L1: ... experimental group were breastfed during two minutes before, during ...
- p 5, L 7: immunizations were performed...
- p 6, L1: a minimum sample size of
- p 6, forelast L: from the mother
- p 7, Discussion, L4: that breastfeeding...
- p9, Conclusion, last L: replace practices with procedures

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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests