Author's response to reviews

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

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I’m enclosing my 2nd revision of the manuscript entitled “Breastfeeding cessation and symptoms of anxiety and depression: a longitudinal cohort study”.

I’ve responded to all of the reviewers concerns. I hope this revision will be sufficient for publication in BMC pregnancy and childbirth.

Sincerely yours,

Eivind Ystrom
- Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract

Line 24-27 The sentence started with “Second we also investigated whether there for. . .” is unclear and need to rewrite.
   
   Yes, this sentence was unclear. We have now replaced it with the following sentence: "Second, we also investigated whether the proposed symptom increase after breastfeeding cessation was disproportionately high for those women already suffering from high levels of anxiety and depression during pregnancy."

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

This has now been corrected.

Background

- Line 48 – 50 The terms, anxiety and depression used in this study still are not clearly defined.
  
  Thank you for noticing this. The definitions have now been extended, improved and related to negative affectivity.

- Line 55 – 56 Typo on “assoated” Breastfeeding cessation is associated with .
  
  This typo has been corrected.

- Line 76 – 78 The sentence is incomplete and not clear. In addition, I don’t see research questions added.
  
  Yes, this sentence was not clear. It has been changed accordingly to the research questions in the abstract.

Measures:

- Line 112 The first sentence should say “the variables included in the data analysis were _ _ “ in stead of “We retrieved information on _ _”
  
  The sentence has been changed according to the reviewers suggestion.

- Line 124 As mentioned previously, it would be much clearer to the readers how the scores are interpreted.
  
  Yes. A line on the interpretation of the scores has been added to the measures section.

- 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.
  
  Indeed. The sentence has been changed according to the reviewers suggestion.
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.  
An expanded description of the theoretical rationale for the block build-up has now been added to the statistics section.

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).  
Frequencies for the three different forms of feeding at each preceding month has now been added to table 1, and the first paragraph of the results section now includes percentages for child feeding each month post partum.

- Line 326 - In table 1 is not clearly illustrated the sample characteristics. The table needs frequency and percentages for each variable listed.  
This has now been included into the table.

Discussion
- Line 203 – 204 The word “absent” should be changed to “inconsistent”.  
Yes. This has now been changed.

- Line 228 – 230 The term “breastfeeding pain” should change to “breastfeeding discomfort”.  
This has now been altered according to the reviewers suggestion.