Reviewer's report

Title: Japanese trends in breastfeeding rate in baby-friendly hospitals between 2007 and 2010: A retrospective hospital-based surveillance study

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Reviewer: Maria Enrica Bettinelli

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. WHO Breastfeeding definitions during hospital stay should be: exclusive (EBF), predominant (PBF) and complementary breastfeeding (CBF) rather than full (not fully) breastfeeding (EBF+PBF). It is useful to collect exclusive BF rate separated from predominant. These data are collected throughout the hospital stay and not within 24 hours before discharge.
You omit the 24 hours recall in the description of the breastfeeding rate at one month.

2. pag. 7 second paragraph
I believe the higher breastfeeding rates in the BFHs are linked to implementing good breastfeeding practices (ten steps, together or some of them) rather than length of hospital stay (BFHs and not BFH have the same length hospital stay). The same applies to the conclusion (pag.9).

3. You may want to consider avoiding to explain in details the use of glucose water, rather just describe it as common practice according to the JBA protocol. The use of glucose water is not a recommended practice in a BFH (see evidence about step 6 by WHO, UNICEF and AAP materials), as previously highlighted.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Introduction Third paragraph (newly added)
You may want to consider shortening the description of health care assistance for pregnant women, mothers and babies in Japan. It may be summarized focusing on the points of interests for this topic.

2. Introduction - Last sentence "We conclude ..." should be omitted. I think you should put this conclusion in the Discussion.

3. Methods 5th line“(defined in Table 1)” omit “defined in”, leave only “(Table 1)”

4. Second paragraph - 6th line You may want to provide further explanation about the concept "The data are collected without unique identifiers".

Results
6. In describing the increase of the number of breastfed newborn you may consider using the breastfeeding percentage when comparing data between
different years (2007 vs 2010).

7. Table 2 You should change "Number of breastfed newborns at admission ..." in "number of breastfed newborns during hospital stay ...".

8. You should describe the data in tables 3-4-5. There is no correlation about type of delivery, etc and type of breastfeeding/non breastfeeding.

**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.