Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Severe vitamin B12 deficiency in a totally breastfed 5-month-old Italian infant born to a mother receiving multivitamin supplementation during pregnancy

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 12 May 2012

**Reviewer:** Marialena Mouzaki

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

1. This case was clearly a combination of Vitamin B12 and Iron deficiency. There is significant emphasis on the B12 data but little data and discussion regarding the iron deficiency. Considering that severe iron deficiency could be contributing to the symptoms (lethargy, irritability) as well as the findings (demyelination and poor developmental progression) it is important not only to discuss these issues but also to provide more information on the iron status, such as ferritin levels or transferrin saturation or soluble transferrin receptor levels. Also discussion about the treatment of iron deficiency is necessary.

2. In the abstract the authors state that the patient was diagnosed as having vitamin B12 deficiency where in reality the patient was both B12 and iron deficient, which should be added.

3. Also in the abstract the authors state that megaloblastic anemia was not seen in this patient 'as expected with B12 deficiency' however this is not surprising considering the iron deficiency and that should be noted as well.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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