Reviewer's report

Title: Probiotics for infantile colic: A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2013

Reviewer: Abdelmoneim Kheir

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks for asking me to review this manuscript
Infantile colic is fairly common and it is of potential interest to many practicing paediatricians.
The objectives of this systematic review are clearly defined.
The methodology section is appropriate however study inclusion and exclusion criteria need to be rewritten more clearly. Also the point regarding no language restriction was applied needs to be clarified more and the authors should state clearly if they used any study that is written in a language other than English and the method used for translation.
The discussion and conclusion sections are seemingly well balanced and adequately supported by data.
An expert statistician is needed to review the statistics. I don’t have any one to recommend.
Of course there are limitations to this study as there are only three studies with a small number of enrolled infants. Another major drawback is that to date there is no objective way of measuring the amount and duration of crying. Of course more studies are needed including bottle fed babies before recommending the routine use of Probiotics for infantile colic. The limitations have been clearly stated by the authors.
This manuscript should be accepted however there are minor essential revisions as follows:
1. The word neonates should be deleted from the key words as colic primarily occurs in early infancy between 2 weeks and 4 months and the word doesn’t seem to appear very frequent in the manuscript.
2. The historical definition of infantile colic by Wessel (rule of three) should appear first in the background as it is still valid. Reference for this:
3. The role of maternal smoking should be mentioned in the second paragraph of the background as smoking is linked to increased intestinal Motilin level. Reference for this:
4. In the second paragraph of the results section, the exact number of babies in the three trials who are exclusively breast fed should be mentioned. This is really very important.

5. In the methodology section, the study inclusion and exclusion criteria need to be rewritten more clearly. Also, the point regarding no language restriction was applied needs to be clarified more and the authors should state clearly if they used any study that is written in a language other than English and the method used for translation.

6. Paragraph 2, line 9 in the discussion section, you wrote: the incidence of colic in breast and bottle fed infants is similar 24???. What is 24? Is it a reference that should be between two brackets? Please clarify!

7. Line 5 of the conclusion, you wrote: Which may be a realized?? (a) Should be deleted.

8. Regarding the references, most if not all are conforming to Vancouver’s style, however Reference 22 and 32, no need to mention month of publication.

Thanks once more for asking me to review this manuscript.

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**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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 interest.