Reviewer's report

Title: Revised Fenton growth chart for preterm infants

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2012

Reviewer: Ian J Griffin

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This is a timely revision of the 2003 Fenton growth chart for preterm infants. As well as updating the datasets used for preterm growth, the later parts have been smoothed into the 2006 WHO growth charts for term infants. One other significant change is the generation of separate charts for males and females. The previous charts were a significant advance on the currently available ones, and this too, seems to be an advance.

Although this updates two previous publications using similar methods I’d like to see more details of the methods given here, so that it can stand alone.

Also, I suspect that this may be an earlier version of the draft, than the authors intended to submit. For example, the highlighted line “the close fit between the meta-analysis and the growth of preterm infants” in the discussion looks like a reminder for the authors to say something about that there?

Major Compulsory Revisions
- Methods: Was summary data combined to generate the composite dataset, or were the raw data used?
- Methods: More information is needed on how the individual datasets were combined.
- Methods: Clarify the difference between “B Combine the data to produce weight intrauterine curves for each sex ...” and “C. Develop growth monitoring curves”
- Results: Please add a table showing the number of subjects at each gestational age from each individual dataset, and for the total sample.
- Table 1: Was not present in my review copy

Minor Essential Revisions
- How do the current curves compare with the 2003 ones?
- Figures: I found the formatting of some of the figures off-putting and would have preferred larger numbers, thicker axis lines, and larger type. One axis has “gestational” misspelt”. The last 2 figures are very nice.
- A table of the summary L, M and S values be very helpful, ideally as a table in the paper.

Discretionary Revisions
- Discussion: How do the male and female curves compare?

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

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests