Reviewer's report

Title: Comparing the growth of preterm infants through the gestational period of 37 to 50 weeks with the reference fetus

Version: 4 Date: 30 January 2013

Reviewer: David Tudehope

Reviewer's report:

I was satisfied with most of changes made by authors which improved science and readership.

However, I would like to make 2 minor suggestions to text but some more substantial suggestions about presentation of figures

Suggestions to improve text

*Introduction: ps.4th paragraph ,line 1 - add is ,since it is often

*Methods: p4 formula for FIGR .Replace # with number in denominator

Figures are difficult to interpret and legends need further clarity. Figures should stand alone and be understandable from description in legend without having to read text

*Figure 1 – legend has been improved by adding 3rd,50th and 97th centiles but overall figure is less clear than previous version.


Figure 2 - once again legend and figure need clarity as for figure 1 .The concept of individual weight gain patterns and median weight gain curves is hard enough for reader to comprehend without having to struggle with figure labelling as well.

Figure 3 – legend doesn’t relate to the figure at all .

Figure 4 – impossible to visualise the 3 different lines on the image I downloaded.

Figure 5- ? no legend provided

Figure 6 - ? no legend provided

Figure 7 - presumable the legend described as figure 5 is actually legend for figure 7 .

As you can see the description of the 5 legends provided for 7 figures caused this reviewer great confusion. Considerable work is required to improve
presentation and description of figures.