Reviewer's report

Title: Randomized Outcome Trial of Nutrient-Enriched Formula and Neurodevelopment Outcome in Preterm Infants

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Reviewer: Harrie HN Lafeber

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript represents the neurodevelopmental follow up at 24 months of 2 cohorts of healthy preterm infants fed a standard or a special energy and protein enriched formula as described in Pediatrics 2012;130:1215-1221.

I consider this manuscript as well written and suggest only minor revisions:

I suggest to add to the discussion the aspect of the timing of the nutritional intervention. Maybe the period immediately after preterm birth is more sensitive for influences of extra protein or energy on brain development than the period after discharge from the hospital. It could therefore well be that since no interventions in nutrition took place in that critical period no effects on the Griffith score at 24 months were observed. Of course this suggestion can only be proven by performing a randomized trial on predischarge nutrition in preterm infants. However in practice this may be considered rather unethical since such a trial may have negative influences on neurodevelopment of this vulnerable group of preterm infants.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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'