Reviewer's report

Title: A new growth chart for preterm babies: Babson and Benda's chart updated with recent data and a new format

Authors:

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Reviewer: Stephanie Atkinson

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

Comments to author:

a) Discretionary revisions
1. Pg 5, first paragraph - what is meant by "there was the suggestion that ultrasound was used for gestational ages"? This methodology should be clarified by communicating with the original author (Dr. Kramer).
2. Pg 7, middle paragraph - the comment regarding the Niklasson head circumference and length data needs to be clarified.
3. Pg 13 - While it is true that growth charts that provide assessment of body composition, there are recently published papers by Nancy Butte and Ken Ellis from Baylor University in which body composition of term born infants over the first two years of life has been evaluated.

b) Compulsory revisions
4. The noun "data" which is used throughout the manuscript requires a plural verb.
5. It would be very useful to the reader if a table was added that summarizes the origins of the data incorporated into the development of the new growth charts. Such a table could include sample size, how the weight, length and head circumference were measured, the inclusion and exclusion criteria applied and the gestational age of subjects. While this information is mostly available within the text, a tabular form of the information would serve to improve the clarity of the methodology, and would be invaluable when educating clinicians in neonatology about the origins of the data so as to give credibility to the application and use of the new growth standards.

Competing interests:

None declared.