Reviewer’s report

Title: Breastfeeding and childhood asthma: a six-year population-based cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2007

Reviewer: Onno P van Schayck

Reviewer’s report:

General

Very good research that has led to interesting information. Some additional information should be reported in the manuscript.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1) At what age did parents provide information on the breastfeeding period and how did they report this? You included children at ages 1-7 years. Couldn't it have been so they did not remember the exact period of breastfeeding?

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) How can you state collecting breastfeeding information before onset of the outcome has avoided bias due to awareness of the disease as you included children at ages 1-7 years and outcome was reported at 6 years (or 7)? some children must have had symptoms at inclusion.

2) It is very plausible a child will have too little feeding from exclusive breastfeeding when it is >8 months old. Please describe this topic in the discussion section.

3) How many children were never breastfed at all? Please report this.

4) Why didn't you ask parents if they or their child use house dust mite (HDM) allergen impermeable bedding since this is highly correlated with HDM allergen exposure?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1) Were the variables single parent and home care highly correlated? If so why include both variables?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have
responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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.