Reviewer's report

Title: Exclusive breastfeeding of Swedish children and possible influence on development of obesity: a prospective cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 17 March 2008

Reviewer: Wendy H Oddy

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between exclusive breastfeeding and obesity following adjustment for confounders. A prospective cohort study was used to analyse data from birth to 5 years of age. This is an important question. However we would encourage the authors of this paper to have a co-author or colleague with English as a first language to edit their paper prior to submission to the journal for review. The data for the study are very good.

Methods: Was a T-test conducted between normal and overweight/obese children.

What exactly were the socioeconomic variables used? What exactly were the category levels discussed in the data collection section. When were the co-variate data collected? Was smoking and maternal employment data collected? Was a power calculation done prior to analysis?

Figure 2 was not included in the manuscript file. This may have been Figure 3. The results focus on the confounding factors with breastfeeding and little data is given on the relationship with obesity. Again, wording requires some checking in relation to English grammar.

Some of the discussion discusses results that were not the focus of this paper for example, parental age and breastfeeding. Some of the discussion should be in the results section – no new data should be given in a discussion.

Figure 1 dose not include any axis labels so it is difficult to see what is going on in this figure. Figures 3 & 4 may nto be necessary – the results can be given in the text of the manuscript.

Table 1 – baseline characteristics should be n= (not >=). Also state the (n=) after each exposure in table 1.

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

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests