Reviewer's report

Title: Late preterm is a risk factor for growth faltering in early childhood: a cohort study

Version: 2  Date: 23 September 2009

Reviewer: Richard W Cooke

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A clearly written paper which seeks to examine growth in early childhood of mildly preterm infants who were normally grown at birth, when compared with term infants from the same community. The cohort were geographically selected and drop-outs were very few. The follow-up rate was high.

The Background and methods sections are easily followed. The statistical treatment of the data is sound, and the authors have tried to adjust for maternal and infant variables associated with preterm delivery. This does not seem to have altered the conclusions from univariate analysis very much. It is perhaps a pity that there was no measure of maternal size, particularly height, as it is possible that poorer smaller mothers may have had babies that grew less well later. Perhaps the authors could address this at least in the discussion.

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.