Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring newborn foot length to identify small babies in need of extra care: a cross sectional hospital based study in Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 24 August 2010

Reviewer: Ken-Pen Weng

Reviewer's report:

The content of this paper is interesting. The authors studied the associations of newborn foot length and birth weight to identify babies who are low birth weight in a rural African setting. They found the screening cut-off of foot length < 7 cm or < 8 cm to identify small babies. Their discussions are simple, but sound. There are a few issues to strengthen the manuscript:

Major compulsory revisions:
1) There are different methods of foot length measurement, such as the center of the back of the heel to the tip of the big toe. How was foot length measured in this series?
2) The inter-rater reliability of foot length measurement using a plastic ruler should be calculated.

Minor essential revisions:
1) The correlation of foot length and birth weight can be calculated for further discussion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

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