Reviewer's report

Title: Parents' beliefs about appropriate infant growth and feeding: implications for the prevention of childhood obesity

Version: 3 Date: 22 June 2010

Reviewer: Kristen Hurley

Reviewer's report:

The article “Parents’ beliefs about appropriate infant growth and feeding: implications for the prevention of childhood obesity” is much improved since first submission. The authors did a good job addressing most of the reviewer’s comments.

See remaining comments below:

******Major Compulsory Revisions

Results and Discussion

Page 12; top of page (last 2 lines) --Again, be cautious here, while low-birth weight infants who experience rapid weight gain may be at higher risk for obesity later in life, this may be basically a non-modifiable condition for the infant. The real risk happened prenatally. During infancy, catch-up (or rapid weight gain) for LBW infants may be required for proper development.

Page 22, lines 8-10. Consider adding that the intervention should focus on recognition and preparation of “healthy foods” (e.g. organic vs. not; cooking, etc) and development healthy physical activity for infants.

Title:

Might add “beliefs about appropriate infant behavior” as well as growth and feeding.

Abstract:

In second to last sentence under background section, might consider adding issue of “infant behavior” here as well.

Under results, consider changing word “participants” to “parents”; just so there is no confusion re: focus (e.g. parent vs. infant).

Again, in last 3 sentences under conclusion, might consider adding that interventions should focus on recognition and preparation of “healthy foods” (e.g. organic vs. not; cooking, etc) and development healthy physical activity for infants.

*************Discretionary Revisions
Background:
Consider removing last 5 lines of first paragraph, they may not be necessary.
In line 2 of 2nd paragraph, consider putting “(e.g. breast feeding and introduction to solid foods) after words “infant feeding practice”. May help tie this sentence to remaining paragraph.
In line 2 of 3rd paragraph, consider replacing word “is” with “was”
In last sentence of 4th paragraph, consider re-wording to something like “This study aimed to explore UK parents’ beliefs concerning their infant’s size, growth, and behaviors, and their receptiveness……

Method:
Sampling and recruitment
In line 2 of 1st paragraph, consider removing words “to focus groups”
Also, why was one low-risk site selected? Consider clarifying for reader.
In line 1-2, paragraph 3, I’m not sure you need SR and PA. It’s kind of confusing, might be better just to refer to them as facilitator and note taker through-out.

Data analysis
Who is CG, may remove initials and just refer to position (e.g. coder)

Results and Discussion
Page 13, paragraph 4; consider replacing word “unsurprising” with “not surprising”
Page 14; under shame and stigma section. Consider saying “Some parents” in 1st sentence given that some parents preferred fatter infant (as authors describe in previous paragraph)
Page 14, line 17. Replace “t” with “It”
Page 17, line 19. Consider replacing “he” with “The”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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