Author’s response to reviews

Title: Breastfeeding practices in urban and rural Vietnam

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Hanoi and Gothenburg, Aug 28th 2012

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Re: MS: 6028192526616924
Breastfeeding practices in urban and rural Vietnam

To: Editorial office,
   BMC Public Health Journal

Dear Sirs, Madams

This paper was first submitted to BMC Public Health on 12th January, 2012. There have since been three rounds of referee comments. The manuscript has now been revised according to referee comments:

The language has been revised.

The terminology of different types of breastfeeding patterns has been adapted according to the suggested WHO paper.

The methodology of collecting the breastfeeding data is clarified in the paper. The information obtained at each monthly visit was: The infant is only given breast milk or the infant is given breast milk and other food or the infant receives no breast milk at all.

The results are based on interview data from the mothers. The interviewers were carefully trained to ask for data e.g. on additional foods, from the whole period since birth and last interview, respectively. However, recall bias could not be excluded in any study of this type. Moreover, it could not be excluded that hospital staff may have given an early formula meal without the knowledge of the mother, particularly to babies born in a Caesarean section.

However, it is important to note that the present study shares these methodological problems with most other published breastfeeding studies. Consequently, the results from this study allows for comparison to data from other studies.

We are grateful for the reviewer’s comments and hope that you will find the changes satisfactory and interesting for the readers.

Yours sincerely,

Huong Nguyen Thu

Henry Ascher