Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Breastfeeding practices in urban and rural Vietnam

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**Version:** 5  **Date:** 16 October 2012

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Hanoi and Gothenburg, October 16th 2012

Dear Editor,

Thank you for sending the comments of the referee concerning MS: 6028192526616924. We have made clarifying corrections in the Method part, reorganised the tables and reviewed the language.

The data used for the article does not permit the use of the term “exclusive breastfeeding” in the strict sense of the WHO definition. This study shares this problem with most studies in the field, especially studies in low and middle-income countries, to exclude each and every possibility that the infants may have been given single meals of formula at the delivery or maternity wards by the staff, perhaps without the knowledge of the mother. The importance of such events is however related to the aim of the study. If you e.g. will evaluate the importance of exclusive breast-feeding for the development of allergy it may be extremely important. For the purpose of the present study as well as our group’s studies on growth however the importance is minute. This is also clarified in the Method part of the manuscript.

We hope you can now accept the article for publication.

If the article can be accepted but still requires language improvement we can

This paper was first submitted to BMC Public Health on 12th January, 2012. There have since been four rounds of referee comments. If the article is rejected for some other reason we can only ask for your quick response in order not to further delay publication elsewhere.

Sincerely

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