RESPONSE TO SECOND REVIEW

1. The author states that exclusive breast-feeding is the focus of the study. The rest of the manuscript then needs to reflect this. For instance, in the 1st sentence of the discussion the 98% should be removed 29.7% should be inserted – that is the proportion of exclusive breast-feeding. The proportion of non-exclusive breast-feeding is not the focus of this study, and hence should not be alone in the 1st sentence of the discussion.

R. Agree. The sentence is revised to: “Despite almost all mothers breastfed their infants during the six months follow up, only 30% reported exclusive breastfeeding at 22 weeks postpartum.”

1b) in addition, please include that only three quarters of the cohort were followed at the six-month time point. This suggests that the proportion of exclusive breast-feeding is actually likely quite a bit lower than 29.7%.

R. Agree. We add that: “Since about 20% of the 639 participants were lost to follow up, the actual exclusive breastfeeding rate is likely to be lower.”

2) In figure 1, beyond inserting the percent of the cohort followed please also add the number and the percent breast-feeding.

R. Percentages of exclusive breastfeeding inserted.

2b) similarly please insert percents in the abstract for the proportion of the cohort followed

R. Done as suggested.

3. Given the steep decline in exclusive breast-feeding rates, it would seem incorrect that survival curves extend beyond 250 days, when 6 months (176 days) was the last information available.

R. Agree. The survival curves have been revised.

4. Since all the information is obtained from surveys of the women, please clarify this throughout the manuscript, with additions of words like “reported”. Recall
bias is surely one of the limitations of this study and it should be acknowledged as such throughout the manuscript. It is possible that more caregivers gave information antenatally about breast-feeding, and the women did not recall, given that this surveys were done postpartum.

R. Yes, all information obtained was based on self-report by the participants. The word “reported” is now inserted throughout the manuscript.

5. Please restructure the paragraph on strengths and limitations as the paragraph that is labelled strength contains within it a number of limitations the should be to the next paragraph.

In the paragraph on limitations, please acknowledge that all of this information is self-reported, including whether or not the patient reported breast-feeding information had been given to them.

R. The section heading is changed to “limitations”. We acknowledge that information obtained, including breastfeeding information and encouragement to breastfeed, was based on self-report by the participants.