Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of Multiparity and Prolonged Breast-Feeding on Maternal Bone Mineral Density: A Community-Based Cross-Sectional Study

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Reviewer: Mark Brincat

Reviewer's report:

As the authors themselves admit in the discussion, since this is a retrospective study, there is a recall bias, especially in the subjects who are elderly (patients over 90 years have been included). This might contribute to the fact that there was no significant association between parity+breastfeeding and bone mineral density.

Major Compulsory Revision- In the section STUDY SAMPLE, the authors state: "When a child was reported to have been breast-fed for more than 24 months, a maximum of 24 months was noted as it was assumed that intermittent breast-feeding beyond 24 months had no substantial effect on maternal bone metabolism." HOWEVER in the section STATISTICAL ANALYSIS, they state that women were divided according to the total duration of breast-feeding (never breast-fed, 1-48 months, 49-96 months, more than 97 months). This needs to be clarified. This may be the reason why no differences were found in age-adjusted BMD when groups of women with different total durations of breast-feeding were compared.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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