Reviewer's report

Title: Lower energy expenditures in infants from obese biological mothers

Version: 2 Date: 22 April 2008

Reviewer: Maciej Buchowski

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Some paragraphs still could be shortened.

Page 12, Paragraph 2: “One of the major advantages...quotient (21) is misplaced and redundant: Consider omitting 1st three lines and placing the rest under the brief discussion of EMTAC at the end of paragraph 2, page 6.

Page 13, Paragraph 2 describing breastfeeding should be shortened.

Minor Essential Revisions

Tables:

Ranges for all variables should be included. It should be specified if values are means plus/minus SD in the legend.

Consider:

1. Combining rows 1 and 3 as under.

Infant Groups
(n), sex (M=males/F=females) Lean
7, (4M/3F) Overweight
7, (3M/4F) Obese
7, (4M/3F)
Maternal BMI (kg/m2) 21.8 ± 1.9 27.4 ± 1.2 * 38.0 ± 6.2‡†

Table 2

- It is unclear where these equations are coming from. Were the equations generated from the current set of data and then used for the adjustment of these data?

Comment has not been answered.

Table 3.

It is unclear how Oscilations/min were measured.

Discretionary Revisions
Conclusions:
Consider refining prior suggestion by redrafting conclusion to avoid redundancy:

We utilized a single comprehensive method to assess daily energy expenditure in 3-6 month old infants and found that infants born to overweight and obese mothers had lower 24-hour energy expenditure, increased BMI, and increased body fat when compared to infants born to normal weight mothers.

Consider moving last sentence of the conclusion to discussion.

Title:
I would suggest changing title.
Maybe:
Association of energy expenditure in infants and maternal obesity.

Introduction: 1st sentence: Authors should consider omitting …“throughout early childhood”. The effect of maternal body composition might not be limited to childhood.

Discussion: 1st sentence: Authors should consider omitting … “in early life”.

Figure 2. One “obese” mother-infant pair is missing (20 points instead of 21)

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests