Reviewer’s report

Title: Milk ejection patterns: an intra-individual comparison of breastfeeding and pumping

Version: 2 Date: 28 May 2015

Reviewer: Anne Eglash

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Please explain how many subjects were multiparous vs primiparous. Is it possible that the pattern of milk ejection may be better established for multips than primips? Is it possible that if they are multips, that they trained their bodies to let-down to the pump by following the pattern of the baby?
2. Please describe how many times the subjects had their first 2 milk ejection cycles measured with a pump?
3. Please mention whether these babies were documented to be growing well.
4. Clinically, I notice that women often have a faster letdown when nursing than when pumping. I see that this is the trend in your results, but the difference in speed to first ejection between nursing and pumping didn't reach statistical significance.
   Could the difference in the time to first ejection between breastfeeding and pumping become significant with a larger sample size? Is small sample size a major reason for not finding significance between these 2 measures? If so, please mention this. I am concerned that people may walk away with the conclusion that there is no difference in timing of milk ejection between nursing and pumping.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Is there a relationship between milk volume and duration of ejection? Mothers in this study have a wide range of milk volume.
2. Could you comment on whether it is worthwhile for a pump to have the ability to vary the duration of the suction cycle

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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