Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of frenotomy on breastfeeding variables in infants with ankyloglossia (tongue-tie): a prospective before and after cohort study.

Version: 0 Date: 16 May 2017

Reviewer: Jenny Ingram

Reviewer's report:

This interesting and well written paper of a before and after study provides descriptive evidence for the effects of tongue-tie on breastfeeding and the hypothesis that frenotomy has positive effects.

I will not comment on the statistical aspects of the paper and any inferences drawn.

In the background it would be helpful to know at what age the exclusive breastfeeding rate in Ireland is 46%.

My main comments revolve around the use of a modified version of the LATCH tool without reference to a publication. The LATCH (as described by Jenson in 1994) is a 5-item (not 6) tool: Latch, Audible swallowing, Type of nipple, Comfort, Hold scored 0, 1, 2. Urine characteristics and infant satiation are not in the LATCH so any overall scoring should use the 5 items and no more to compare with other studies. The use of the additional items need to be clearly described and the differences in scores and any statistical results explained. This also needs to be reflected in the discussion section.

Table 1: it is rather confusing to include the missing % in the pre-frenotomy feeding rates.

Pain on breastfeeding p12:

Second sentence (line 273) needs rewording. Pain scores were reduced when comparing pre to post frenotomy. Also reorder the data in brackets so that it is clear that the fist numbers are for pre-frenotomy.

Breastfeeding assessment using LATCH p12:

32% of women did not complete the LATCH post-frenotomy. I presume you have taken account of this? Is the tool suitable for self-completion? I have only seen it reported as health professional scored previously.
Discussion.

Make sure that you have given references to all studies quoted. There is an overuse of commas in places and a few grammatical errors which I'm sure will be picked up in any revisions.

Figures.

The difference between pre-frenotomy and post-frenotomy bars is not obvious when printing in black and white so some differential shading would be helpful. Keep the order consistent between graphs - pre or post first.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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