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: 23 May 2017

Reviewer: David Todd

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Thank you for asking me to review: Effect of frenotomy on breastfeeding variables in infants with ankyloglossia (tongue-tie): a prospective before and after cohort study.

This is a very important subject on the effect of division of tongue-tie (TT) but the paper needs some major work before it can be accepted for publication.

1. In their "background" they mention that using sharp blunt ended scissors without anaesthesia is commonly used. However in their "methods" section, the exact method of division should be described?

2. In their "background" they mention that "The Canadian Paediatric Society and the Japanese Paediatric Society state that tongue-tie does not present breastfeeding challenges for all infants, and, therefore, do not recommend routine frenotomy [1, 15]. A reference from a British study should be mentioned here and the article by: HOGAN, M., WESTCOTT, C. & GRIFFITHS, M. 2005. Randomized, controlled trial of division of tongue-tie in infants with feeding problems. J Paediatr Child Health, 41, 246-50. Specifically deals with which type of TT causes BF problems

3. Methods: These following points need to be addressed
   a. No mention of how the TT was divided
   b. No mention of how the TT was diagnosed
   c. No mention of TT type although the authors did ask the parents to look at pictures of type of TT (Coryllos classification). Showing pictures to parents is a very poor method of deciding what type of TT and the reference they showed only have 3 pictures?
   d. No mention of who divided the TT an what was their training
4. Results:
   a. The demographics are very poorly described.
      i. Need gestation of babies, birthweight and especially gender
      ii. Need to know the range of when they divided the TT
      iii. Need a table
   b. Was there a difference between those who did or did not return baseline questionnaire
   c. Table 1 needs some statistics
   d. Table 2 needs numbers as well as descriptions
   e. Figure 1 and 2 needs statistics
   f. Figures 1 and 2 should have Pre-frenotomy first and then At follow up
   g. Tongue extension and improvement in BF could be in a table
5. Conclusion:
   a. Could be shorter
6. Limitations:
   a. 281 in seven units over 5 months! What was the birth rate in these units and thus what is the incidence of TT? Needs to be in results!

Rewrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

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

No

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

No

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

No
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

No competing conflicts

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal