Reviewer’s report

Title: Characterisation of sucking dynamics of breastfeeding preterm infants: a cross sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 19 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Xiaoxue Chen

Reviewer's report:

This study investigates the sucking dynamics and factors associated with milk intake among preterm infants.

This is an interesting topic, but the study would be stronger if the author can improve in the following areas:

1. Explain more clearly how the authors comes to the final sample? It could be better worded than just saying "technical issues" for all 4 of them. Were the 4 infants excluded all due to oral-facial anomaly,... or failure to attach to the breast?

2. The method section is quite comprehensive, but needs some extra work to improve the clarity. E.g. list the variables right after"all other variables were analyzed.... ";

   Add the explanation for choosing certain method--simultaneous linear regression model; Explain what's the difference between "analysis specific fixed effect" and "covariate of interest"?

3. In the result section, the author didn't provide adequate data table/figure for the adjusted result. The author also failed to report the effect size along with the p values.

4. In the result section, the author focused a lot on the outliers instead of describing the general trend/descriptives.

5. The author may consider elaborate a bit more about what has been done in the term infants.

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.

Unable to assess
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

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