Reviewer’s report

Title: "You just need to leave the room when you breastfeed" Breastfeeding experiences among obese women in Sweden - A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 05 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Rebekah Fox

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for sending your manuscript 'You stepped aside when you could breastfeed' Breastfeeding experiences among obese women in Sweden' for review. I found the article very interesting, addressing an important and increasingly relevant topic from a refreshing qualitative angle. Qualitative research on such topics is important, in that it helps us to understand the women's own perspective on their breastfeeding experiences and ways in which they could be better supported to achieve their breastfeeding goals.

Background

It would be useful to know a little more about the physical and psycho-social reasons behind lower rates of BF in obese women - e.g. delayed lactation, greater birth interventions, problems with positioning, body image, etc - a good summary of these are given in the article below. This would give a good context as to why obese women may have additional problems in initiating and continuing BF.


It would also be useful to have a little more information on the Swedish context e.g figures on breastfeeding rates (initiation and duration). Sweden has very high BF rates and generous parental leave by international standards, which may influence women's intentions to initiate and continue BF. Such factors may contribute to different antenatal intentions in different cultural contexts (as mentioned in line 44) depending on cultural norms - in Sweden BF is largely seen as the norm (evidenced in some of the quotes by the study participants) whereas in other cultures (or sub-cultures) it is not.

Rates of obesity in Sweden, although increasing rapidly, are also relatively low compared for example to the US or UK, which may influence perceptions of BMI. Would be useful to have a few figures and comparisons for an international audience.
Methods

The methods and analysis seem suitable for a small scale qualitative study. Did you ask the women about delivery method, birth interventions etc and whether this affected BF? This might have been useful information as these factors are known to influence BF initiation. You also don't mention ethnicity in your description of the sample.

Results

The research reveals several interesting themes, many of which are also relevant to non-obese women. I wonder if it might be better to restructure the results a bit to focus upon themes that are specific to obese women, or at least clarify how they are similar / different to non-obese women? This is discussed quite extensively in the discussion section, but could perhaps be integrated better into the results? Sometimes it feels as though the quotes need a little more discussion.

Another possible way to do this could be to integrate the results and discussion together (a style used in some qualitative papers) possibly moving some of the background literature to the background/introduction section? (this is not necessary just a suggestion).

Discussion

The discussion addresses some of the points raised earlier and provides a robust discussion of the challenges faced by obese breastfeeding women. A couple of minor points:

pg.18 line 356 - reference for individual postnatal breastfeeding support?

pg.19

Line 383 - 'disgusting' not perhaps quite right word?

Line 388. is it appropriate to refer to 'artificial' milk?

Line 400. 50% seems very high numbers against public BF - would this figure be similar in Sweden? (I'm guessing not?)

Conclusion

The conclusions could do with being extended a bit - perhaps focusing on what support could be provided both antenatally and postnatally, building upon the last section of the discussion and perhaps a bit more detailed summary of the findings and their implications.
General

The whole manuscript needs to be language edited by a native English speaker to ensure flow and readability (fully appreciate that you a writing this in a second language!) The quote used in the title 'you stepped aside when you would breastfeeding' does not translate easily into English (I'm guessing it means that women wanted to be out of the way when breastfeeding?) but could be interpreted in several ways - perhaps a less literal translation would work better?

Overall a really interesting read - thank you!

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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.

I declare I have no competing interests

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