Reviewer's report

Title: Mother-Infant Bonding is not Associated with Feeding Type: A Community Study Sample

Version: 0 Date: 23 Mar 2018

Reviewer: Louise Brough

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the authors

This paper describes a cross sectional survey of 271 mothers to investigate the associations between breastfeeding and bonding allowing for negative mood and sleep disturbances.

Title

Your measure of bonding was a lack of bonding disorder, rather than a measure of actual bonding. Thus a more appropriate title would be "Mother infant child interaction difficulties are not associated with feeding type."

Abstract

Please include information about where the study was carried out in the abstract.

Introduction

Breastfeeding rates are country/culture specific; you could include information here about where the data was collected.

Methods

The definition of bonding seems to be a lack of bonding disorder, is this truly a measure of bonding.

How was the sample size determined? There are only 33 women in the never BF group - is this a valid sample size, the lack of findings could be due to insufficient sample size.

92% were within the normal range - so only 8 % had a bonding disorder, thus you would be left with very few in the never group, making your findings less reliable.

Why were past BFers not grouped with exclusive and partial - they are all Breastfeeders.
The sample was a convenience sample. How comparable is your sample to the breastfeeding mothers in Israel? Is your population different/similar in terms of SEC, age, ethnicity to the breastfeeding population in Israel.

Don't use etc - be specific about data collected.

Is the coupon in US $

The statistics used needs to be more clearly explained in the methods section rather than in the results.

Results

Why was 1 outlier removed can you provide some explanation of why they were deemed an outlier.

How did those who completed your study compare to those who did not finish the study (585 entries)

Define TST is in the text, I know it is in the table also but need to have in the main section too.

The internal consistency for the PSQI was lower (0.583) than for the other 2 measures. Could this have had an appreciable effect on the validity of this instrument?

Discussion

The not knowing whether the infant is fed expressed BM vs from breast is a major limitation, when you consider the physiology of breastfeeding.

You need to discuss whether the sample size is valid. The small number of never BF is a limitation of your study and could be a reason for the lack of association of your findings.

As you have significant limitations you need to be careful with the strength of your assertions about the lack of finding associations between bonding and BF. You need to acknowledge the role breastfeeding plays in nutrition and also other health aspects which are well documented such as the role BM plays in immunology, breast milk is not solely for nutrition.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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