Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of nipple shield use on milk removal in mothers with pain: a mechanistic study.

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Version: 4 Date: 25 Jun 2020

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Mr Oliver Cocks
Editor
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
June 24th, 2020

Dear Mr Cocks,
Thank you for informing us of the minor revisions required to have our manuscript “Effect of nipple shield use on milk removal: a mechanistic study” considered for publication in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. Please see below our point-by-point responses to the feedback received, with the reviewer feedback in bold font.

Page 5, line 24 - Please explain why the pain group pumped the most painful breast rather than the less painful breast.
The following text has been added to the manuscript; “…and PG mothers pumped the most painful breast as the indication for nipple shield use was nipple pain.”

Page 8, line 7 - "…mothers who had complete [reinsert word "data"] for paired sessions…"
The word “data” has been reinserted at page 8, line 7.
Study Limitations should address the problem of under powering due to having just 11 participants whose data were considered valid. The following text has been added to the Limitations section (page 13, lines 270-273); “The findings of this study must be viewed in light of the small sample of valid data, that was due to technical difficulties. While an association between nipple shield use and milk removal during pumping was observed in the subset of 11 participants with valid data, analysis based on the estimated required sample size of 30 would increase confidence in these results.”

Please qualify the statement that leads off the Discussion, "This study has shown that use of a fitted nipple shield during pumping reduces effectiveness of milk removal,” so that readers will be aware of study limitations.

The opening sentence of the Discussion section (page 11, line 224) has been amended to “Findings from this study suggest…”

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Sharon Perrella PhD(Dist), RN RM IBCLC