Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 01 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Maria Enrica Bettinelli

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,
I appreciate your interesting study and hope you are able in the future to complete your evaluation on infant sucking dynamics during breastfeeding with and without a nipple shield. These are my brief comments.

Line 94 "3. with a small nipple shield": why do you this small nipple shield? At the end (lines 160-162), you conclude:'Only two mothers had valid data for small nipple shield, fitted nipple shield and no nipple shield pumping sessions and therefore data for the small nipple shield sessions were excluded.'

Line 135 PAMR. Please explain the significance in the text - it is more easy understanding this concept and why it has been used in addition to specific reference.

Line 151 "the applied vacuum did not reach the set vacuum." Could you explain why happened?

Line 188 DOF. I suggest to open this acronym on the title and not in note. Please put this acronym in the glossary too.

Line 212 About pain: could you please let us know if the mothers were tested for depression or perinatal mood disorders? What are the clinical problems that cause this persistent pain?

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.
I recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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