Reviewer’s report

Title: Gestational age, mode of birth and breastmilk feeding all influence acute early childhood gastroenteritis: a record-linkage cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 14 December 2015

Reviewer: Jonas Ludvigsson

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I have read through the stats and here are my comments:

The authors should motivate the rather large number of co-variates (probably ok given the large number of positive events in their study).

Did the authors test for proportional hazards assumption?

Is there a risk of multiple chance findings? - please comment in the discussion.

How did you define a statistically significant finding? (probably $p<0.05$ or a 95%CI not including 1.00)

Why did the follow-up begin at end of birth care, and not begin at birth?

Did any of the children suffer from gastroenteritis during birth care? or were they excluded from the analyses (in a sensitivity analysis perhaps?)?

Table 1: what is row% and what is column% - explain.