Reviewer’s report

Title: Caffeine is a Risk Factor for Osteopenia of Prematurity in Preterm Infants: A Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 20 Apr 2016

Reviewer: Christine Rodda

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting your manuscript describing your observations of caffeine use for apnoea in premature infants and evidence to support this being a possible contributor to the development of osteopenia of prematurity (OP). You have studied 109 premature infants weighing less than 1500gm and less than 31 weeks gestation, from a single site retrospectively. You cite your exclusion criteria, but were not clear about how you actually identified the infants for your study (presumably from an institutional database) and how consent was obtained for these infants. From your lengthy and detailed introduction you clearly appreciate the multifactorial nature of osteopenia of prematurity, however the retrospective design of your study remains a weakness.

Clearly phosphate metabolism is a very important factor in the development of OP. What was your reasoning for analysing the serum phosphate as categorical data rather than as a continuous variable? Overall, given that this is a preliminary retrospective study, the introduction and discussion needs to be substantially shortened and more focussed with the number of references reduced, focusing on key recent references.

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:

Acceptable

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