**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** No effect of adding dairy lipids or long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids on formula tolerance and growth in full term infants: a randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 20 Apr 2017

**Reviewer:** Mary Harris

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript describes part of a human clinical trial investigating the effects of adding milk lipids or long chain fatty acids to plant oil based formula to more closely resemble the lipid profile of human milk. The first study reported the primary objective which was to alter erythrocyte membrane fatty acids. This study showed no significant effect of altering lipid composition on either formula tolerance or growth. The stated objective was to improve these parameters and the study results were clearly negative, therefore I would suggest that the title be changed to indicate "no effect of adding dairy lipid or long chain fatty acids on formula tolerance and growth in full term infants." The conclusion should also be changed to reflect the secondary objective and also include the lack of effect of the long chain fatty acid addition. The results and discussion would be more interesting if discussed in relation to changes in RBC fatty acids (previously published). It is important that this study was done in full term infants. It may well be different in preterm low birth weight infants.

I have several questions about the methods.

Was the study powered on the expected change in the primary outcome (RBC membrane fatty acids). If so is this likely to be adequate to evaluate the secondary objectives. Growth and tolerance may be expected to show more variability and the study may be under powered to detect differences in these outcomes. How was fatty acid composition of the formulas determined? Please provide brief description - measured or manufacturer data.

There are numerous grammatical errors. Anthropological should be Anthropometric.

Recumbent length not height was measured in infants.

Differences among the three formulas not between (appears numerous times throughout abstract and text).

Line 79 Plant oils "do not encounter" might mean do not possess?
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.

Yes

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal