Reviewer's report

Title: Early feeding of larger volumes of formula milk is associated with greater body weight or overweight in later infancy

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Reviewer: D Gruszfeld

Reviewer's report:

The paper entitled: "Early feeding of larger volumes of formula milk is associated with greater body weight or overweight in later infancy" is interesting and well written.

The authors present results of a prospective observational study performed on a large cohort of infants. They compare growth data between formula-fed infants receiving higher vs. lower volumes of formula at 3 months of age. They present also growth data from breastfed infants as a reference group.

In fact it is not a new idea that the volume of formula consumed influences an infant's growth. The most important limitation of the study is lack of data on energy consumption.

However, I recommend this paper to be published as there are some interesting points raised:

- Descriptive analysis of factors influencing different feeding patterns
- Demonstration, that feeding patterns in general, particularly volume overfeeding in early infancy may potentially predispose a child for future overweight
- Results of linear mixed-effect modelling

The study would have more impact if longer term growth data, beyond infancy, were reported and possibly a programming effect demonstrated (or not).

Abstract:

- One would expect explanation of abbreviations (WAZ and BAZ)

Background:

- No major remarks
Methods:
- The authors do not explain how the anthropometric data were obtained (staff, equipment, quality of data obtained)

Results:
- No major remarks

Discussion:
- No major remarks
- The sentence on page 9 (line 217-218) not clear enough

Conclusions
- No major remarks

References
- Adequate and up to date

Figures
- Clear and well designed

Tables
- Table 1: Please, add "(%)" in maternal age characteristics. I'd also skip the second line ("no") in case of parameters, where only "yes" or "no" is possible. This could make the table a little bit shorter

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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