Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants for early introduction of complementary foods in Australian infants: Findings from the HSHK birth cohort study

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Reviewer: Rachael Taylor

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an analysis of predictors of early (defined as < 17 weeks, or 4 months) introduction of solids in Australian infants. The sample is large and the paper well written. However, there appears to be relatively little novelty involved, apart from the fact that the participants are from a specific area of NSW. It would be good to see the introduction more clearly outline what is known and missing from the literature, and why this relatively select sample offers novelty and interest given the reasonably well studied topic.

Specific comments:

1. The Introduction spends some considerable time discussing the different ages in various guidelines and nothing on the predictors, associations with breastfeeding or reasons for early introduction - all of which (except reasons) appear as actual aims. I would recommned then shortening the former to allow some limited examination of the latter.

2. Lines 179-182. Provide more detail on how the "reasons" for early introduction of solids were assessed. Were participants provided with a list and answered yes or no? Or was it more open-ended - if so, how were the data collated. It appears from Table 2 that participants could only provide a single answer here - why is this? Wouldn't parents have more than one reason?

3. Provide more detail about the sample demographics to help show the novelty of this population group. A simple way might be to add an "n" column to Table 1 perhaps.

4. The discussion is very long and could be shortened without losing critical content.

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