Reviewer's report

Title: Breastfeeding and complementary feeding associated with body composition in 18-19 years old adolescents in the 1993 Pelotas Birth Cohort

Version: 0 Date: 16 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Vundli Ramokolo

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript, based on a prospective study in Belotas (Brazil) deals with the association between early infant feeding practices and body composition in adolescence; a very important public health topic given the rise in overweight and obesity and related NCDs in many parts of the world. However, the manuscript requires some significant changes.

Specific comments:

Abstract
- I suggest that the authors use consistent terms throughout the manuscript. For example: At times the authors refer to "corporal composition" and other times "body composition"
- The title refers to adolescents aged 18 years while the body of the abstract refers to 18-19 years. Please check
- Given that the results are presented separately for males and females, I suggest that the authors state the sample sizes for the males and females that were analysed
- The authors report the results from the linear regression in the abstract but do not report the unit of measurement. Please report mean FM and mean FFM instead of just FFM and FM. Please also ensure that consistent terms are used for these outcomes throughout the manuscript. In the body of the manuscript the authors refer to FMI and FFMI.

Introduction: The entire introduction section can be made more succinct.
- Lines 70-73: This sentence is not clear. Please consider rephrasing it.
- Lines 75-76: Please provide a reference for the studies mentioned.
- Line 77: I suggest that the authors specify the specific nutritional status measurement that was used in the research study they cite
- Lines 75-88: There is some repetition in these paragraphs so I suggest that the authors review the text. The rational for the study also needs to be made more clearer.
- Line 86: Please specify that you are referring to eating habits
- Line 88: Body composition compartments- this phrase is not clear
- Line 89-94: Please check the grammar in these sentences. Some sentences are incomplete.

Materials and methods
- Line 101-110 Please check the grammar in this paragraph and ensure that all sentences are complete.
- Line 104: Please report the number of hospitals in the study sample
- Line 106 and 110 : Please briefly describe what exclusion or inclusion criteria were used to select the sub-samples
- Line 118: Please state how the methods that were used to collect the feeding data e.g. 24 hour dietary recall questions
- Line 119: Please define the infant feeding classifications (EBF, predominant or partial breastfeeding)
- Line 121: Please specify what the complementary feeding definition was based on. The WHO regards non-human milk products as complementary feeds
- Line 122: The sentence is not clear. Please briefly describe the policy recommendations
- Line 123-124: Please rephrase this sentence
- Line 136: "body density"- please use consistent terms
- Line 171: Please briefly describe the sub-sample selection process (inclusion/exclusion criteria)
- Line 172: BMI- Perhaps the authors meant FMI

Results
- Line 201-202: The authors presented both means and medians for FMI. If FMI has a non-normal distribution, I would suggest that they report median (IQR)
- Line 203-210: Please report some of the key statistics for the results
- Line 214: "this association did not show any trend (p=0.01)." This text is not clear

Discussion
- The authors discussed the strengths of the study but did not sufficiently comment on the weaknesses. One potential weakness of the study is the lack of physical activity data so this key determinant of body composition was not accounted for in the analyses
- The authors did not sufficiently discuss the implications of the study findings particularly for Brazil

Line 295: "more mature" is not clear. Please consider rephrasing

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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