Reviewer’s report

Title: Differences in early risk factors for obesity between African American formula-fed infants and White breastfed controls

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Reviewer: Ian R Sanderson

Reviewer's report:

This article is from a group who have published studies to reduce obesity in children by interventions in early infancy. Their previous publications have been mostly in Caucasian children, and they seek to redress this in the current article by studying African-American children and comparing them with children who were not African-American from previous work. They find significant differences between the groups.

The findings are interesting and important. The main issue is that the design of the future definitive study of the interventions is not fully described. A consort diagram and power calculation to examine the difference between the two groups of children in the article have been added, but the article does not state the numbers of AAAFs needed for a full intervention study based on power calculation comparing interventions, and taking into account dropout rates, refusal to consent etc from this work. It should be possible for a reader to know how a future trial would look, from a publication in PAFS.

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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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