

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Developmental variations in plasma leptin, leptin soluble receptor and their molar ratio in healthy infants

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 24 December 2006

**Reviewer:** Mary Yannakoulia

### Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

It is a well written paper on the associations between plasma leptin / sOB-R levels and various body composition parameters during infancy. However, the authors need to reconsider the following issues:

- How this sample size was decided? 44 infants may be a small sample size, especially if one wants to study the impact of both gender and race on physiological variables (provide information on the number of white girls and boys, as well as on the number of African American girls and boys in the Methods Section).
- What was the rationale for the measurement intervals? Please further explore the possibility that potential changes in physiological variables were not detected due to the blood sampling intervals.
- The authors should more clearly stress the new information that this study added to the existing literature on leptin and sOB-R levels in infants (i.e. compared to the existing papers on the associations between levels of sOR-R/leptin and anthropometric data).

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.