24 eligible hospitals invited to participate

Hospitals that do not consent to participate

24 Hospitals that consent to participate and begin 3 months baseline data collection (September-November 2003) (hospitals that do not accept to participate will be replaced)

5 Hospitals excluded for having episiotomy rates < 20% and active management rates > 25%.

19 Hospitals with episiotomy rates >= 20% and active management rates <= 25% randomized

10 hospitals in the behavioural intervention group. Intervention beginning in June 2004 and lasting 18 months

9 hospitals in the control group. They will receive the intervention at the end of the study.

Anticipated loss to follow-up due to drop-outs is estimated in less than 10%.

Data collection (3 months) for primary and secondary outcomes September-November 2005 (10 hospitals; 3500 women with vaginal deliveries)

No losses to follow-up in this period are anticipated

Data collection (3 months) for primary outcomes September-November 2006 (10 hospitals; 3500 women with vaginal deliveries)

Data collection (3 months) for primary and secondary outcomes September-November 2005 (9 hospitals; 3000 women with vaginal deliveries)
Figure 1
Trial profile