Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of epidural lidocaine analgesia on labor and delivery: a randomized, prospective, controlled trial

Version: 4 Date: 7 December 2006

Reviewer: Stephen Halpern

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)

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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)

The sample size must be based on the primary outcome. In this case, the sample size is based on the length of labour. If length of labour is the primary outcome, these results should be presented first in the results and tables (after demographics). Length of labour should also be discussed first in the discussion. If the primary outcome is mode of delivery, the sample size must be based on that outcome.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No