Reviewer's report

Title: A randomised clinical trial of intrapartum fetal monitoring with computer analysis and alerts versus previously available monitoring

Version: 2 Date: 10 May 2010

Reviewer: Zarko Alfirevic

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It is important that protocols of RCTs are in the public domain so that final reports can be checked against them.

I do not accept the justification for the choice of primary outcome. The fact that other studies used the cord pH measurements in the past does not make it right. The fact the clinically more meaningful outcomes may require bigger sample size is precisely my point. In any case, there are better alternatives (low Apgar score at 5 minutes, for example) as it is less likely that this outcome will not be available for ALL randomised women.

Also the rationale for a pilot analysis after 1,500 women and how this may impact on the rest of the trial and what is the role of DMC in this analysis remains unclear.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests