Reviewer’s report

**Title:** A Randomised Controlled Trial Comparing Standard or Intensive Management of Reduced Fetal Movements after 36 Weeks Gestation - A Feasibility Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 19 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Justus Hofmeyr

**Reviewer’s report:**

This randomized pilot study was conducted to determine the feasibility and acceptability of a large, definitive trial.

1. The question posed by the authors is well defined.
2. The methods are appropriate and well described.
3. The data are sound.
4. The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.
5. The discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data (but see comment below)

**Major compulsory revision**

The decision of the authors not to publish the outcomes of the pilot study require further consideration. Their reason is valid: the trial was not powered to measure these outcomes, which are thus subject to the play of chance. On the other hand, in the era of reliance on systematic reviews of randomized trials, the principle is that all results for all women randomized to alternative interventions, no matter how small the individual trial, should be available for inclusion in systematic reviews. Otherwise there is the risk that outcomes by chance positive will be reported while those by chance negative will not, leading to publication bias. I would strongly recommend that the authors either include the results (with the necessary caution that they are subject to the play of chance), or indicate that the results will be published elsewhere or made available for systematic review.

**Discretionary revision:**

It may be worth reconsidering the inclusion of SGA in the composite outcome, as it is unlikely to be modified by more or less active management towards the end of the pregnancy.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
9. Is the writing acceptable

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests