Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of Gender-based Social Dynamics on the Decision to Voluntarily Participate in a Clinical Trial

Version: 4 Date: 24 June 2014

Reviewer: Katrien Oude Oude Rengerink

Reviewer's report:

The authors performed a study with an interesting study question, focusing on differences between man and women in voluntary participation in a clinical trial. In general the writing and the finishing need some improvements.

Major Essential Revisions

1. The abstract mentions a 5% confidence level, but I assume the authors mean a 95% confidence level (corresponding with a p-value of 0.05)
2. The introduction mentions there is little national (Brazilian) literature dedicated to voluntariness and clinical trials. Given the international audience of this journal, I would suggest to add a more international perspective
3. I am not sure whether I understand it correct, but the numbers do not add up in the description of the number of participants in the methodology section. There were 174 potential volunteers, and with 15 and 11 with a reason for non-participation and 143 participants numbers count up to 169. Please check.
4. The authors mention that an independent t-test was used to evaluate categorical and quantitative variables. It is unclear what is meant here: was it used to compare quantitative variables over two groups, or was the categorical variable tested as if it were a continuous variable. Please explain more clear.
5. In general the paper focuses on significant differences, I would (also) be interested in an interpretation of the meaning of the magnitude of the effects found. I am not sure whether the conclusion 'women may lose their freedom in the decision process' is justified based on the data presented. From the research presented in the discussion it is clear, but it may also be that women want to discuss their participation with more persons to be able to make a more thorough decision than man. Please elaborate on the effects found and its meaning.
6. Figure 1 is currently not clear without an explanation. Please improve.
7. Please add a clarification on the meaning of the General Influence score.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The title is at the moment unclear to me 'gender-based social dynamics' is a bit a vague term. Please make the title more clear and understandable.
2. In the Abstract is mentioned 'A majority of subject', I suggest to use 'the majority of'.
3. Please be consistent in the number of decimals used for p-values and odds ratio's.
4. It would be better interpretable if either the questionnaire is shown or the questions are explained in more detail.
5. Please report exact p-values instead of p>0.05. It could make a difference in interpretation whether p-values were for example 0.06 or 0.90. This is mentioned in the results section in the first and second paragraph.
6. The word 'bring' in the sentence 'Difficulty to access to medical care is not correct. Suggested revision: 'Difficulty to access medical care was indicated by 40% of males and 36% of females as being a motivation for participating in the study.
7. Please be consistent in the number of decimals used for percentages: now you mention 40% and 35.7% and 2 and 5.3%.
8. In the end of the results section, please change 'significant' to 'significantly'.
9. In Table 1 please revise the title 'economic of' is not correct, it could be 'economic status' or 'income level'.
10. In Table 1, change 'Above the' to 'above', 'de' is not used in English.
11. Please remove 'Note: a. Statistical test for', so 'Chi-square test' remains.
12. In Table 1 Woman should be Women (plural)
13. The title in Table 2 is Qustao, which is not English
14. Please change Woman to Women in table 2.
15. Please reduce the number of digits in table 2.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Please explain in more detail what the General Influence means.
2. In the funding part, I think 'Sponsored' and 'Funded' do not need capitals.
3. Please consider to add percentages to Table 1
4. Please consider to add the total number of Man and Women that participated to the tabel
5. Please consider to add percentages to Table 2.
6. Please consider to add percetnages in Table 3.
7. Please ocnsider to reduce the number of decimals in Table 3.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests