Reviewer’s report

Title: The PRCI study: Design of a Randomized Clinical Trial to evaluate a coping intervention for medical waiting periods used by women undergoing a fertility treatment

Version: 2 Date: 26 July 2013

Reviewer: Kleanthi Gourounti

Reviewer’s report:

In general, the objective of this study protocol is very interesting and the study design seems very promising. However, the manuscript has some minor deficiencies that should be revised before publication. I have detailed some revisions below:

Introduction.

1. The background information in general is informative. However there are some issues that have not been mentioned. The authors should include some information about the possible consequences of infertility related stress (e.g. reduction in pregnancy rates, there are many primary studies and some systematic reviews that have explored the impact of stress on IVF outcome) in order to demonstrate the necessity of offering an intervention.

Methods

2.1. Do midwives work in fertility clinics in the Netherlands? If yes, this should be referred in the study protocol. By this way the international readership will be able to know what type of personnel can offer fertility support in the Netherlands.

2.2. It should be specified which program was used for the sample size calculation.

2.3. The authors should specify what are they planning to do with not normally distributed data. It is very possible to have some variables with not normally distributed data. They can either use non parametric statistical tests and these tests should be specified or they can make mathematical transformations for normalizing the data. I think that these should be specified in the section of data analysis.

I hope that you will find my comments helpful.

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