Reviewer’s report

Title: Mothers’ perceptions on their child's enrollment in a randomized clinical trial: poor understanding, vulnerability and contradictory feelings

Version: 1 Date: 4 November 2013

Reviewer: Alessandro Cavalcanti

Reviewer’s report:

This paper addresses aspects related to the mothers’ perceptions about the processes of informed consent and randomization in an RCT in Brazil. The biomedical ethics is an important issue in the clinical trials. The article is well written, with a correct methodological approach and an updated literature.

Minor Essential Revisions:
• Replace the keyword “Biomedical ethics” for “Ethics, Medical” or “Bioethics”.
• Introduction: A reference for the statement in the sentence should be included: “A RCT is carried out when there is more than one alternative treatment for a disease and it is not known which is most appropriate.”
• Page 3, 3rd paragraph: A reference for the statement in the sentence should be included: “Given those stimuli, a child may manifest different levels of dental treatment avoidance behavior, including verbal protests, movements of the body and head, and cry.”.
• Page 4, 1st paragraph: A reference for the statement in the sentence should be included: “Also, there are countries where the aforementioned pharmacological techniques are not accessible for dental treatment purpose, so practitioners still have to physical restrain children to perform dental rehabilitation and, in consequence, eliminate pain and improve quality of life of children and their families”.

Discretionary Revisions
• Page 5, 2nd paragraph: “UFG”. What does this mean? “Federal University of Goias”? Clarify.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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