Reviewer's report

Title: An eight-year follow-up national study of medical school and general hospital ethics committees in Japan

Version: 1 Date: 22 March 2007

Reviewer: Fernando Lolas

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting piece, professionally done, which poses and answers legitimate questions regarding ethic review committees in Japan and may serve as element in any comparative analysis of IRB practice.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
I do not see any major aspect needing revision of the manuscript

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Language is appropriate and observations up to the point.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests regarding this article.