Reviewer's report

Title: Support to woman by a companion of her choice during childbirth: a randomized controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 26 June 2007

Reviewer: Simone Diniz

Reviewer's report:

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. The paper is original (the first to assess the impact of companionship of women's choice in labor/birth) and a very relevant study in the Brazilian context. For this reason it is important to mention that having a companion of her choice is guaranteed by São Paulo State law since 1999 (10.241/99) and since 2005 by national law (11.108/05), although sadly not respected by many services and providers. It is important to mention, even if briefly, that this study can help providers acknowledge and respect women's rights in birth, and even include these aspects in medical training, considering that Sumaré is a training hospital.

2. As acknowledge by the authors, although the study finds a great improvement in women's satisfaction, an excellent outcome in itself, there is a lack of effect of support on any routine interventions is due to the nature of the study protocol, in which active management was adopted (a real problem in Brazil). This makes the finding of less lower occurrence of meconium-stained amniotic fluid even more important, reflecting the positive stress-prevention aspect of support in labor in its (potential) impact over the newborn. It would be worthy to include a couple of words about it also in the conclusions, since newborn health have a great appeal for providers and policy-makers.

What next?
- Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest
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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:
- An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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- Acceptable

Statistical review
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- No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician, since its analysis is appropriate.

Declaration of competing interests
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I declare that I have no competing interests

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.