Reviewer's report

Title: Phenobarbital versus Morphine in the management of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, a randomized control trial

Version: 3
Date: 18 September 2014
Reviewer: Scott Wexelblatt

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Review:
1) It would be helpful to know what your LOS, and treatment days were prior to the initiation of the study, and if there was a protocol in place prior to the onset of the study for morphine. Hall et. al. (Pediatrics 2014) show that having a protocol is more important than choice of drug.
2) It would be helpful to separate the opioid from non-opioid in your data analysis. The review on NAS by Kocherlakota (Pediatrics 2014) and the Cochran review in 2010 all suggest morphine for opioid withdrawal and phenobarbital for non-opioid. I would assume your results would show the same.
3) You are defining NAS as opioid withdrawal, but it seems that some infants included may not have had opioid exposure (cocaine, methamphetamine).
4) Explanation on why breastfed infants were excluded.

Minor Reviews:
1) Table 3. I assume Crack is cocaine.
2) Table 4 Remove abbreviations.
3) Figure 2. Don't know how this figure helps findings.
4) Use opioid instead of opiates, as this covers both synthetic and nonsynthetic.
5) This study took place over a 5 year period, and has a low enrollment. Can you describe if any changes in practice took place (Finnegan score training ect...)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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