Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 5 **Date:** 7 November 2014

**Reviewer:** Scott Wexelblatt

**Reviewer's report:**

Major:
1) Would state that AAP recommends treating opioid withdrawal with an opioid. This paper goes against the current practice in the United States, but may be an option for other countries.

Minor:
2) Would change wording of drug dependent mothers. Not all exposed infants are born to mothers that are drug "dependent".
3) Add to line 88 treatment of "non-opioid"
4) Methods: remove numbering.
5) State what adjuvant therapy was used, especially for phenobarbital arm of study, as in the United States, phenobarbital is only used as the adjuvant treatment of opioid withdrawal.
6) Would need to mention that most commercially prepared phenobarbital solutions contain around 15% alcohol.
7) Add no breastfed infants in study which has shown to decrease NAS.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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' below