

Reviewer's report

Title: Inter- and intra-observer variability in Sonographic measurements of the cross-sectional area of the umbilical cord and its vessels during pregnancy

Version: 1 **Date:** 27 August 2008

Reviewer: Edward Araujo Junior

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

- 1) The title doesn't mention the measurement of diameters of the umbilical cord and its vessels, which is one of the objectives of the study.
- 2) The names of the two examiners (initial letters) should be mentioned, and also their qualifications as sonographers (time of experience in ultrasound in Obstetrics).
- 3) The authors should explain why they choose the diameter measurement of the umbilical vessels, instead of the area. The diameter can present variation due to compressions or asymmetric distribution of Wharton's jelly.
- 4) The authors should explain why they choose to measure in a single point of the umbilical cord located 2.0 cm from the abdominal insertion. The use of 3 different sections (close to the abdominal insertion, close to the placental insertion and in a free loop) allows more precise measurements, since the umbilical cord thickness is irregular in its extension.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.