Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epidural anesthesia and postoperative analgesia with ropivacaine and fentanyl in off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting: a randomized, controlled study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank You for positive response and the opportunity to re-submit a revised manuscript for consideration.

In the following, we respond point-by-point the Reviewers’ comments, indicating, when appropriate, page (P) and line numbers (L) in the marked-up version of the revised manuscript.

Reviewer 1.
Dear Dr. Ishiyama,

Thank You so much for Your response and work to comment on our paper.

Comments

1. Authors replied that fentanyl infusion rate was 3 ml/hr in the control group. However, they did not describe that in the manuscript (Page 6, Line 17). Please clarify the initial infusion rate of propofol in the control group in the manuscript.

   We have indicated the start dose of 3 ml/kg in all groups for all analgesics including fentanyl in the following sentence (P7:L12-14) : The postoperative analgesia was administered by the attending physician, who adjusted the infusion rate of fentanyl in the control group and ropivacaine/fentanyl in the EI groups beginning from 3 mL/h and aiming at a VAS score of <30 mm at rest. The initial infusion rate of propofol after induction of anesthesia in all groups was 3mg/kg/h (P6:L1).

2. Because authors compared three groups, it is necessary to use "among" instead of "between" in Results (Page 9 and 10).

   We have changed the text of Results according to your comment (P9:L12, 20, 26; P10:L27).

We also have made several minor grammatical corrections. In addition, we have
made the changes in the text (Title; P4:L23-25; P5:L9-10) according to the advice of Editor to follow the CONSORT guidelines.

With the above changes, we have complied with the comments and hope that our manuscript will be accepted for publication.

On behalf of all the authors,

Yours sincerely

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