Author's response to reviews

Title: Sciatic lateral popliteal block with clonidine alone or clonidine plus 0.2% ropivacaine: effect on the intra- and postoperative analgesia for lower extremity surgery in children. A randomized prospective controlled study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

We respond to the reviewer Arjunan Ganesh for the notes of the research article, MS: 1324466156509649, entitled: Sciatic lateral popliteal block with clonidine alone or clonidine plus 0.2% ropivacaine: effect on the intra- and postoperative analgesia for lower extremity surgery in children. A randomized prospective controlled study.

1. SLPB has been expanded at the first appearance in the document

2. The sentence: It should be studied 66 children according to the power analysis», has been restructured as follows: According to the power analysis, 66 children should be studied.

3. The evidence concerning of perineural administration of clonidine in pediatric studies is so far inconclusive as different types and volume of local anesthetics agents have been used (9, 10, 11, 12, 13). However, adult studies have shown a more clearly peripheral effect of clonidine versus its systemic effect [2, 3, 7, 23, 24] indicating a challenge to us for further investigation of clonidine administered in distal peripheral blocks in children. Therefore, we decided to investigate clonidine effect as an adjuvant in ropivacaine or as a sole analgesic in SLPB in a definite scheme, assuming that intravenous or intramuscular clonidine may be associated with more side effects (e.g. hypotension, bradycardia) in children. Nevertheless, a systemic effect of clonidine cannot be excluded, indicating the calmness without postoperative delirium, as well as without incidence of shivering and PONV, that could be ought to the use of sevoflurane, in the patients of both SLPB.

Our results showed that clonidine appears promising more as an adjuvant in 0.2% ropivacaine and less than alone in the SLPB plus femoral block with regard to mild, moderate painful foot surgeries. Further investigation is needed to elucidate the definite role of clonidine in paediatric studies.
4. The paragraph: “Although ultrasonographic guidance…..” has been eliminated according to your suggestion.