Reviewer's report

Title: A Survey of Confidence Level and Education of Peripheral Nerve Blocks in Graduating Anesthesia Residents

Version: 3 Date: 25 October 2012

Reviewer: Owen O'Sullivan

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is, on the whole, well written and easy to follow. I have a number of concerns with the existing manuscript which I will outline below

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors seek to characterize the type and number of blocks graduating residents have performed. They also seek to establish the how "comfortable" they are at performing the pre-defined list of blocks. The authors do not provide a definition of "comfortable", a subjective term. For example, do they mean comfortable attempting the block? Or, performing the block independently?

2. In describing the methods there is no indication of how the number of residents who SHOULD HAVE received the questionnaire would be calculated. There is also no indication of how the number of residents who DID actually receive the questionnaire would be calculated.

3. How was the response rate calculated? Is this an estimate?

4. Did all respondents complete the questionnaire in full?

5. It is not appropriate to attribute any relationship between self reported comfort and competence - sentence 1 in paragraph 2 of the discussion. This is inappropriate.

6. In outlining the limitations of this study. I would think the most significant limitation is the low response rate. It would be more appropriate to have this as the first limitation mentioned in the discussion.

7. The references used in this manuscript are largely 10 to 15 years old. Given the explosion in interest in the area over the last few years and the large number of relevant publications I feel this is inappropriate.

Minor Essential Revisions

The title of figure 2 is incorrect - it does not correspond to the description in the text.

Discretionary Revisions

The authors should outline why comfort levels were sought, and why they are
significant in the context of assessing educational outcomes.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**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