Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 26 November 2012

Reviewer: Vincent Minville

Reviewer's report:

In this study, authors aimed to evaluate graduating residents experience with selected peripheral nerve blocks (6 PNB), perceived comfort level in performing these nerve blocks independently upon graduation from residency, perceived quality of regional anesthesia teaching during residency, and suggested areas for improvement..

The topic and the approach are originals. The manuscript is clear in its presentation and the results are definite and conclusive.

Major comments:

1. How did you select these 6 PNB? Why not supraclavicular, infraclavicular those become necessary with the spread of Ultrasound and are very easy to learn. Or axillary block, the last one is a very essential block, whereas you selected lumbar block that is known to be very dangerous and is avoid by many anesthesiologist.

2. You ask for sciatic nerve block but which technique? There are many.

3. This article will be read by many readers across the world, you should explain CA-3.

4. Did these residents have regional anesthesia rotation?

5. How could you explain the little number of blocks performed?

Minor comments:

Discussion

- « Reflecting the increasing popularity of PNBs, our study has shown that the number of PNBs performed during residency has significantly increased over the last decade. » Is it the main result of your study ?

- « Although 91% of respondents met the ACGME criteria for forty peripheral nerve blocks, 85% indicated they were either “not comfortable” or only “somewhat comfortable” with lumbar plexus blocks. » Indeed, it is the most dangerous block (see Auroy et al. Anesthesiology 2006).

- « A steep learning curve was also reported for neuroaxial anesthesia where a 90% success rate was not consistently achieved until 45 spinals and 60 epidurals were performed. ». Please delete, this is not the subject.

Conclusion
You should discuss the learning curve for each block. The goal of 40 PNB is insufficient to be efficient in all blocks because each block has its own specificity.

Figures
- Could you provide statistical sign (such as *) on the figure to be clearer, concerning the time effect and the treatment effect.

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No conflict of interest.