Author's response to reviews

Title: Variation in postoperative non-steroidal anti-inflammatory use after colorectal surgery: a database analysis

Authors:

Hans-Christian Pommergaard (hcpommergaard@gmail.com)
Mads Klein (madsklein1@gmail.com)
Jakob Burcharth (jakobburchar@gmail.com)
Jacob Rosenberg (Jacob.Rosenberg@regionh.dk)
Jørgen B Dahl (Joergen.Berg.Dahl@regionh.dk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Regarding the revised version of the manuscript: “Variation in postoperative non-steroidal anti-inflammatory use after colorectal surgery: a database analysis”

Dear Editor

We wish to thank the referees for their thorough revisions and comments and appreciate the opportunity to submit a revised version of the above-mentioned article. In the following sections, each comment made by the referee are followed by our response in italic. In the submitted revised article, changes are highlighted in yellow.

**Referee 1:**

Remark 1:

A hypothesis would be \(^3\)NASIDs prescribed are NOT taken by the patients\(^2\) or vice versa.

*We agree with the referee, that the sentence was not constructed as a formal hypothesis. This has now been changed in the manuscript.*

Remark 2:

With no information about guidelines, the information from the study remains inadequate and not novel. We all know that NSAIDs are not used adequately and appropriately.

*We respect the referee’s opinion. However, we still believe that this study adds useful knowledge to the body of evidence on the subject. Moreover, this study analyses unique information on what was actually taken by the patients and not only what was prescribed, which we believe is an important aspect of the issue.*

Remark 3:
With regards to the use of inappropriate doses, I think the predefined doses of NSAIDs are low (Methods section). For example, ibuprofen 800mg/day, as a minimum. Furthermore, the fact that some practitioners used even lower doses is even more concerning. I understand the concerns of some practitioners in not using NSAIDs, but for those who decided to use it, using an inappropriate dose is a problem. This suggests that there is a lack of understanding and need for education. May be this should be included in the discussion section.

*Excellent point raised by the referee. The issue has been addressed in the discussion section of the manuscript.*

Once again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised manuscript. We hope these clarifications and alterations are satisfactory and that the revised manuscript can be considered for publication in BMC Anesthesiology.

Sincerely yours,

Hans-Christian Pommergaard