Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2
Date: 8 January 2014

Reviewer: Girish Joshi

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the email. I have reviewed the authors response to reviewer's comments and the revised manuscript. I have no further thoughts except for the comments below. Kind regards.

Girish

I appreciate the concern of the authors regarding a potential conflict to my comments. Nevertheless, the authors agree with most of my comments and state that they have no data or cannot obtain the data (e.g., information from the departments regarding guidelines). Thus, I am sorry, but my concerns regarding the deficiencies of this study remain.

Remark # 4, Response: The hypothesis of the study has been described in the last sentence of the first paragraph, which states the following: "whether NSAIDs are prescribed and actually taken by the patients as part of a multimodal post-operative analgesic regimen has not been evaluated for colorectal surgery and it remains unclear whether consensus exists between departments regarding this treatment." We believe this describes the hypothesis. If this is not satisfactory, we are of course willing to change the wording.

Comment: A hypothesis would be "NASIDs prescribed are NOT taken by the patients" or vice versa.

Remark # 5: 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.

Remark # 6: 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. Maybe this should be included in the discussion section.