Reviewer's report

**Title:** Regional sympathetic blockade decreases endotoxin-induced endothelial injury

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 2 January 2014

**Reviewer:** Annop Piriapatson

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors of the present study had a very interesting research question. They investigated whether the leukocyte-endothelium activation and interaction as well as the subsequent endothelial injury could be modulated by the regional sympathetic blockade with thoracic epidural anesthesia in the endotoxin-induced rat model. Their study was well designed and well described. The results from this study were very impressive. They clearly demonstrated that, with the thoracic epidural anesthesia, the leukocyte-endothelium activation and interaction as well as the endothelial injury could be significantly attenuated in the endotoxin-induced rat model. The discussion was well delineated. I have a minor comment here.

**Compulsory revisions:**

No

**Discretionary revisions:**

- There should be a figure or table that represented the data of the plasma concentration of catecholamines and IL-1#.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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