Reviewer’s report

Title: A multi-centre randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the value of a single bolus intravenous alfentanil in CT colonography

Version: 1 Date: 12 March 2013

Reviewer: Ana Ignajtovic

Reviewer’s report:

A multi-centre randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the value of a single bolus intravenous alfentanil in CT Colonography

Peer review

This is an original and interesting article. In general it is well designed and reported although there are a few issues that need to be addressed.

1. Abstract – results line 3 – requires p values
2. Methods – population – line 1: Were the pts consecutive?
3. Methods – intervention – there are no comments about allocation concealment mechanisms – please amend. Who recruited the pts and who assigned the treatment – please clarify
4. Outcome measures – should come earlier in the paper – only primary outcomes stated- please clarify if the secondary outcomes were set at the beginning of the study – this refers again to Conclusion line 4 – all the other outcomes are at present hypothesis generating (reduced procedural time, recovery time and safety) as study not powered to assess – please clarify.
5. Table 1 – please insert total numbers as well as percentages
6. it is of great significance that 16/36 pts experienced episodes of desaturation – please elaborate in the conclusion in terms of safety

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests