Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of abdominal hot compresses on indocyanine green elimination - a randomized cross over study in healthy subjects

Version: 3 Date: 7 March 2007
Reviewer: Daniel De Backer

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors have addressed many of the comments but I have some points left:

1/ In their answer to reviewers’ comments, the authors answered positively to my question whether changes in ICG PDR may be detected when already normal at baseline. However, this was not implemented in the manuscript, as the text mentions that circadian fluctuations may exist and that drugs may affect it, but the direction of the changes is not specified and one may expect that it can only be altered but not further increased. Your sentence should clearly state that it can further increase (what you may expect if the intervention increases blood flow).

2/ The fact that liver enzymes are normal does not rule out that function and flow may evolve in opposite way. Please remind that ICG pdr is affected in patients with sepsis well before enzymes become altered.

3/ You now mention that heat compress application was accompanied by a feeling of relaxation so that all patients felt asleep. This may markedly affect PDR. Indeed, splanchnic blood flow decreases during sleep, so that you may expect PDR to decrease (unless there are opposite changes in function, but as function was normal at baseline it can no more increase). Hence the stability in ICG PDR along with changes in arousal may suggest that splanchnic blood flow was indeed increased by application of compress. This needs to be discussed

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

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' below