Reviewer's report

Title: Pain and satisfaction during rigid cystoscopic ureteral stent removal: A prospective, randomized, pilot study

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Reviewer: Inho Chang

Reviewer's report:

Ureteric stents are undoubtedly a significant cause of morbidity while in situ. Whilst there are different options for removal, they are usually removed under local anaesthetic with the aid of a flexible cystoscope. This is an uncomfortable procedure and a proportion of patients seem to get fairly severe pain afterwards which may be attributable to ureteric spasm. The pain at stent removal has not been well reported in the literature. In this issue of this article presents a randomised controlled trial of a propofol to dramatically reduce pain and increase satisfaction at stent removal.

This beautifully simple study had simple aims: to determine the incidence of pain at stent removal and whether this could be reduced using midazolam or propofol before the procedure. In a prospective randomised controlled trial, the authors have shown a clear advantage to the use of active midazolam or propofol. Using a visual analogue scale (VAS) the mean pain after stent removal was 5, and 0 in the midazolam and propofol group compared with 8.0 with control. More impressively the scale of patient satisfaction at stent removal was 3 and 5 vs. 1. Therefore, authors recommended procedures utilizing moderate sedation with midazolam or general anesthesia using propofol. However, I concerned about one aspect.

1. In pain scale, control group show high pain (VAS score: 8). However, other studies it is not high, therefore authors need to further comment about that.


Thank you

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'