Reviewer's report

Title: Somatosensory Evoked Potentials suppression due to remifentanil during spinal operations; a prospective clinical study

Version: 3 Date: 19 April 2010

Reviewer: Henning Hermanns

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has improved significantly after revision by the authors, concerning content and style, so that most points raised have been addressed adequately.

Major Point

1) The remaining major point is the relatively small amount of patients included in the study and furthermore, the population seems to be quite heterogenous. I would like to leave the decision to the Editor, whether to accept this otherwise valuable paper.

At least, this limitation should be underlined at the end of the discussion.

Minor Points

2) Please recheck the legend for figure 2 (µV and min presumably instead of mV and msec?)

3) Still, there is no description of the procedure that followed when recordings met warning criteria (i.e. reduction of amplitude > 50%), which was the case in several patients in the study. Why acquire data to reduce potential harm to the patient when pathological values have no consequence?

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.