Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of thoracic epidural analgesia on plasma cAMP and cGMP levels in patients with heart failure

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

We would like to submit our manuscript, “Effects of thoracic epidural analgesia on plasma cAMP and cGMP levels in patients with heart failure”, by Fengqi Liu for consideration for publication. In this manuscript, we report the results of a prospective, single-center, randomized, clinical trial.

Forty patients with heart failure were randomly assigned to the TEA (TEA plus standard care) and control groups (standard care). The plasma concentrations of cAMP, cGMP, BNP (brain natriuretic peptide), and NE were measured by EKISA, before and the second and fourth weeks during the treatment. We found that the plasma concentrations of cAMP, cGMP, BNP, and NE in the TEA group were significantly decreased at 4th week after treatment, compared with their baselines and that of the control group. The values of LVEDD, EF and FS in the TEA group were remarkably improved compared with their baselines and that of the control group. The changes in these indices in the control group had no statistical significance, compared with the corresponding baselines. We think TEA can effectively decrease the plasma cAMP and cGMP levels and improve cardiac function in patients with heart failure. The decreases in NE and cAMP levels occurred before the improvement in cardiac function, indicating that the abnormal epidural signal transduction can be corrected in patients with heart failure.

This paper has not been published elsewhere in whole or in part. All authors have read and approved the content, and agree to submit it for consideration for publication in your journal. There are no ethical/legal conflicts involved in the article. This manuscript has been edited and proofread by Medjaden Bioscience Limited.

Your consideration for this manuscript is highly appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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