Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 11 May 2013

Reviewer: Dalim Kumar Baidya

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction -
introduction needs to be expanded with more emphasis on the relevance of epidural anaesthesia to heart failure with support of literature. At present there is only one self citation.

Methods –
Please do not mention the type of NYHA class the patients were before starting treatment. This suggests randomization was not properly done. Mention them in the result section.

Why lidocaine was used only during the daytime? Provide some justification in the discussion.

How did u confirm that epidural catheter tip was in the T1-2 level, by any contrast study or ultrasound etc? Please mention.

Results:
please refer to the tables and figures in the text. U can include a table showing the NYHA status of patients before and after treatment in both the groups.

Discussion: well structured.

Why lidocaine was used only during the daytime? Provide some justification in the discussion.

What is the ideal level of epidural catheter tip for adequate sympathetic blockade of heart? Mention with some reference.

- 

Minor Essential Revisions

there are many grammatical errors. Kindly correct all those

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

- Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? – NO
- Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? – NO
- Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? – NO
- Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? – NO
- Do you have any other financial competing interests? – NO
- Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper? - NO