Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of Perioperative High-dose Prednisolone Therapy during Thymectomy in Myasthenia Gravis Patients

Version: 1 Date: 20 August 2013

Reviewer: eugenio pompeo

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In this retrospective study Dr. Yamada and coworkers investigated the benefits of administering perioperative high-dose prednisolone in conjunction with thymectomy in patients with myasthenia gravis.

They have shown that compared to controls, steroid-treated patients though having in general more advanced disease, discontinued anti-cholinesterase therapy more frequently and suffered of markedly lower rates of postoperative myasthenic crisis. Moreover in the study group there were higher rates of improved disease status or pharmacologic remission at three, five and ten years following surgery.

The authors conclusions were that perioperative high-dose prednisolone therapy is safe and promising in patients with myasthenia gravis.

I have found this a well conducted, interesting study with some limitations which have been well acknowledged by the authors.

Major compulsory revisions

1) It is unclear whether the high prednisolone regimen was administered as an alternate-day schedule as stated in the discussion since in the material and methods section it is stated that the regimen was given on a daily bases ‘...oral PSL was initiated at 10 to 20 mg and gradually escalated to 100 mg every other day.....’.

2) It is unclear why did patients not undergoing high-dose prednisolone therapy develop adverse steroid effects.

3) In the results section statistical analysis should be revised by adding in the text also not significant P values

4) Though relatively well written in general, a careful revision by a native language might render the text more fluent

The authors are to be commended for their interesting study resulting from a notable experience with an uncommonly employed strategy of treatment for MG patients.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below