Reviewer's report

Title: Low-Dose, Continuous Brachial Plexus Block In The Management Of Purple Glove Syndrome: A Case Report

Version: 1 Date: 17 March 2009

Reviewer: Vrushali Ponde

Which of the following following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

If other, please specify:

This case report sheds light on utility of continuous brachial block in Purple glove syndrome.

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

General comments:

The therapeutic benefits of continuous regional techniques have to be exercised and promoted to its fullest and this case report has successfully made the above point clear. It is also clinically relevant because to my knowledge, none of the prior reports on purple glove syndrome have described use of continuous brachial block as a treatment modality.
Specify comments:

I have certain questions that I would like to get cleared.

1: Why was infraclavicular approach not considered?, this approach renders itself better for catheter placement, acceptance for a catheter secured in this area is better than in the neck especially for a duration as long as 8 days and lastly anatomically the affected areas (hand and forearm) are covered better with infraclavicular block than interscalene approach. Of course I do appreciate the fact that the patient’s pain was significantly relieved in this case.

2: The authors have inserted the catheter through IV cannula in the interscalene grove, any specific reason that they did not utilize peripheral nerve stimulator or ultrasound guidance?

3: What was the depth at which the cannula was fixed?, again, for longer duration it is more advisable to insert catheters and subcutaneously tunnel for better security and infection control. Why was this not considered? It is very likely for a IV cannula to get displaced.

4: Could they specify which infusion pump was used?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'