Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of propofol versus thiopental on Apgar scores in newborns and peri-operative outcomes of women undergoing emergency caesarean section: a randomized clinical trial

Version: 1
Date: 30 September 2014
Reviewer: Charles Algert

Reviewer's report:

This is a clearly written report of a randomized clinical trial of propofol versus thiopental for induction in cesarean section. This is not a novel trial, these drugs have been compared in trials before. It does provide further evidence about the comparative benefits of the drugs, in a contemporary setting. The review of previous research is not comprehensive. A quick search found an article “Which induction drug for cesarean section?” , Celleno D et al, J Clin Anesth 1993 July-Aug 5(4):284-8, with similar findings.

Major Revisions: none
Minor Essential Revisions: none
Discretionary Revisions:

Lines 154-156 and lines 157-158 report essentially the same information: 43 neonates with Apgar <7 in one arm and 31 with Apgar <7 n the other. These two sentences could be combined into one.

Table 1. Median and interquartile range values of Decision to Delivery Interval should be reported in preference to mean and standard deviation. The time has a lower bound of zero, and does not appear normally distributed (two standard deviations on the side would mean a large negative time). The test for a difference would use the non-parametric Wilcoxon test.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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