Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of adding epinephrine to ropivacaine for popliteal nerve block on the duration of postoperative analgesia: a randomized controlled trial

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Version: 4 Date: 21 June 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: The effects of adding epinephrine to ropivacaine for popliteal nerve block on the duration of postoperative analgesia: a randomized controlled trial

Manuscript number: MS: 1346677053167147

Dear Dr. Rowles,

Thank you for the evaluation of our revised manuscript and for the extra comments made by the reviewer.

Below, you will find the comments made by the reviewer with our reply in blue. In the revision, the changes are delineated by bolded text. We believe that we have addressed the minor revisions raised by the reviewer adequately and hope you will agree.

Thank you once again for your trouble; we look forward to your reply.

On behalf of all authors:
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Sincerely,

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**Reviewer's report:** Stephen Choi

The authors have addressed my major concerns

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. I neglected to mention this in the first review, but in Table 1, participants who had a medial incision (saphenous distribution) should be detailed. The authors discuss that this could affect TTFR. This sort of data would be useful to readers.

   Thank you for this comment, we feel that this extra information contributes to the transparency of our data. This concerns 1 of 9 patients in Group ROPI with ankle fusion, 3 of 10 patients in Group ROPI-EPI with ankle fusion and 1 of 4 patients in Group ROPI-EPI with subtalar fusion. Table 1 on page 18 has been adjusted accordingly.

2. I still believe that the lack of blinding is an issue - while observers and participants being blinded will provide objective assessments, individuals performing the block, because of a lack of blinding can still greatly influence the outcome - this must be stated in the discussion as a potential bias.

   We have inserted a paragraph containing a statement of this potential bias in our Discussion section page 12-13 lines 232-236.

Schoenmakers KPW et al., The effects of adding epinephrine to ropivacaine for popliteal nerve block on the duration of postoperative analgesia: a randomized controlled trial
3) Line 93 and 237 - spelling of 'saphenous'

Thank you for this observation, we apologize for this error. We have changed the spelling in lines 93, 239 and 241 of our revised manuscript.