Reviewer’s report

Title:Bispectral index-guided general anaesthesia in combination with interscalene block reduces desflurane consumption in arthroscopic shoulder surgery: a clinical comparison of bupivacaine versus levobupivacaine

Version:3

Date:24 January 2015

Reviewer:Xiangyang Guo

Reviewer’s report:

The study was designed to evaluate desflurane’s sparing effect in brachial plexus block performed with levobupivacaine or bupivacaine in conjunction with inhalation anesthesia. Overall, this is a well-written manuscript. The combination of ISB and GA may be recommended for clinical application, even though the novelty for the manuscript is not cutting edge.

Detail:

1. Abstract:

1.1 Please correct postoperative to postoperative;

1.2 The methods in the abstract were too short. When the desflurane’s sparing effect was compared between levobupivacaine and bupivacaine, you had better provide a description about the dosage regimens of regional anesthetics that used for the patients.

1.3 Conclusion in the abstract: which type of balanced anesthesia was you mentioned “this type”. You should make your conclusion more accurately.

2. Introduction: if “The combination of ISB and GA allows higher patient satisfaction with lower intraoperative and immediate postoperative narcotic requirements”, why you still say “controversy remains as to whether this combination alters the anesthetic requirements”?

3. Methods: can you explain what is “all patients’ necks were closed with a sponge”?

4. Methods: if FD was adjusted according to the BIS value, you may not choose decreasing the concentration of desflurane as intervention for perioperative hypotension if BIS maintain in 40-60.

5. Discussion: “Recently, the combination of GA with a regional nerve block …… drug requirements, rapid recovery, adequate analgesia, and timely discharge”, “adequate postoperative analgesia” may be more correct.

6. Discussion: Please explain in more detail why “the VAS at the 24th hour postoperatively was significantly lower in the levobupivacaine group than in the bupivacaine group”, your explanation was “This may be due to the long duration of analgesia provided by the bupivacaine”, this did not make sense.

7. Please use “anaesthesia” only in the whole manuscript. “Anesthesia” should
not appeared in the same manuscript.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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