Reviewer's report

Title: Femoral nerve block-sciatic nerve block vs. femoral nerve block-local infiltration analgesia for total knee arthroplasty: a randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2015

Reviewer: Sachiyuki Tsukada

Reviewer's report:

Major concerns:

1. The periarticular injection (local anesthetic infiltration) of this study included only ropivacaine and adrenaline. Modern periarticular injection for TKA typically includes opioid and/or corticosteroid in addition to these drugs. Almost all readers consider that the agent of periarticular injection introduce the result of this study that periarticular injection was inferior.

Authors must describe the content of the periarticular injection briefly in the abstract. In the discussion, refer the recently published articles, especially in major Orthopaedic journals, investigating the effectiveness of modern periarticular injection and compare the results with the result of this study. The content of line 367-8 is very insufficient.

2. The authors must write the way of randomization in detail. Why was the number allocated to two groups completely same in spite of using numbered container method including randomized number?

Minor concerns:

1. The introduction part is too long. But, the introduction part does not include the hypothesis of this RCT.

2. The authors can delete line 129 to 136.

3. Did the surgeons use the air tourniquet during study period?

4. Reviewer doesn’t know Statcel. Is this software valid for scientific article?

5. The reviewer recommends authors to write registry number of RCT in M&M part.

6. In RCT, the primary outcome should be one. The reviewer recommends to use the area under the curve of NRS instead of multiple assessment.

7. The discussion part is too long. Authors should decrease it fewer than half of the primary manuscript.

8. Refer more recently published studies.
9. Please focus on the content of periarticular injection. Not the dose of local anesthetic. The problem is that the periarticular injection you used did not include opioid and corticosteroid.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.