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: 18 April 2015

Reviewer: Patricia Lavand’homme

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Comments on Manuscript # BMC Anesthesiology from Nagafuchi and colleagues.

The authors compare the analgesic effect of two loco-regionale techniques, continuous femoral nerve block-sciatic nerve block or continuous femoral nerve block-LIA, for pain relief after knee arthroplasty. The authors report better pain relief with sciatic nerve block association but only during the first 12 hours post-surgery. No impact was detected on other outcomes like LOS, mobility.

Introduction: clear

Methods:
- remifentanil was used at various infusion rate "as needed": please comment. Does it mean that some blocks were less effective to ensure intraoperative anesthesia? Was it to control blood pressure?
- were the patients included in a fast-track recovery programme?
- LIA administration may be highly variable; the authors should comment on the volume of local anesthetic used
- among the various outcomes, it would have been interesting to question patients about satisfaction regarding their postoperative analgesia; also interesting to assess longer term impact of the two different techniques (e.g. 3 or 6 weeks outcomes)
- statistical analysis is provided

Results: very clear and not surprising

Discussion: correct but too long

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:

NO competing interests