Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dose selection of central or peripheral administration of sufentanil affect opioid induced cough?: a prospective, randomized, controlled trial

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Dear editor:

Re: Manuscript reference No. BANE-D-17-00209

Please find attached a revised version of our manuscript “Dose selection of central or peripheral administration of sufentanil affect opioid induced cough? a prospective, randomized, controlled trial”, which we would like to resubmit for publication in BMC Anesthesiology.

Your comments and those of the reviewers were highly insightful and enabled us to greatly improve the quality of our manuscript. We thank you for your hard work and valuable advice. In the following pages are our point-by-point responses to the comments of the reviewers as well as your own comments. Revisions in the text are shown using blue highlight. We really hope that the revisions in the manuscript and our accompanying responses will be sufficient to make our manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Anesthesiology.
We shall look forward to hearing from you in your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

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Reviewer reports:

Reviewer 1:

PIs appropriate power analysis? Is statistical difference between groups in the rates of cough enough for authors? Performed statistical evaluation must be done again.

Response: We had performed power analysis in a pilot study before our trial. Based on the pilot study, we took our primary end point as the detection of patients in CV group had a 30% reduction in the incidence of cough as those in PV groups, and to have a study power of 90% with a one-sided test and 0.05 significance. 42 patients would be required in each group. we increased an enrollment of 54 patients in each group to take into account any dropouts.

Central and peripheral vascular blind, how was it done? These must explain in the method section

Response: All medical and nursing staff and data collectors, with the exception of anesthesiologist involved in the case, were blinded to the drug allocation and anesthetic technique. All the anesthesiologists were just performing the required anesthetic technique and induction as ordered while they were concealed from the trial objective. Independent data collectors were assigned to collect the required data. These have been mentioned in the method section now.
Reviewer 2:

1-Page 3, Line 45-59 "Patients were assigned randomly to central venous (group CV) and peripheral venous group (group PV) using computer-generated random numbers by Microsoft Excel 2003. Consecutive numbers opaque envelops were used to store the randomization code. All medical and nursing staff and data collectors, with the exception of anesthesiologist involved in the case, were blinded to the drug allocation and anesthetic technique." Same sentence repeated page 4, line between 9- 20. Please chose one of two.

Response: The repeated sentence has been deleted.

2- How anesthesiologists were blinded line is central or peripheral? This just needs some clarification in the methods.

Response: As we have declared above, the implementation of blind method have been mentioned in the method section now.

3- Table 2 and Figure 2 are same data , In my opinion Table 2 is adequate instead of figures.

Response: Thank you for the kindly suggestion about the data improvements. We deleted Figure 2 according reviewer’s suggestion in this version of manuscript.

4- Some data are missing and not written properly in statistical files. And indicate the which statistical method use below the tables.

Response: We are sorry for the carelessness in our interpretation works. Now the data are translated. If there still be somewhere wrong, we can correct it as soon as possible.
And lastly needs some language corrections before being published.

Response: We asked native English anesthesiologist Prof. Irwin MG to help us checking and editing the manuscript. We really appreciated his efforts in improving our manuscript.