Reviewer's report

Title: Use, applicability and reliability of Depth of Hypnosis monitors in children - A survey among members of the European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology

Version: 1 Date: 27 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Jason Hayes

Reviewer's report:

This survey study has been conducted to assess pediatric anesthesiologists use of and perceptions about Depth of Hypnosis monitors (DoH-M). The survey was generally well conducted, and the written manuscript is acceptable. However, there are a few concerns to be highlighted:

1. First and foremost, this study does not really add any new, important knowledge or information to the literature. It reinforces the generally known low rate of DoH-M use, in this case among primarily European pediatric anesthesiologists, and clarifies why it is and isn't used. But most of this information is already known or appreciated by this community, as mentioned by the authors in the concluding paragraph.

2. The survey was conducted about 5 years ago. Perhaps practices have changed over the past few years and the findings are becoming out-of-date (although I doubt this is the case)? It would be interesting to know if this is the case, or not, by re-conducting the survey and comparing the results across time?

3. The response rate was quite low (30%), which isn't surprising in and of itself. However, the authors did not comment about efforts to increase non-response rate. For example, how many reminder emails asking them to complete the survey were sent to ESPA members? Also, are any demographics of the non-responders known (academic vs community practice)? Even if the answer is no it would be useful to note.

4. The Discussion could be a bit more succinct (less re-iteration of Results). Also, the authors mention recent guidelines from NICE, but it would be even more interesting to discuss other published guidelines or recommendations, if any exist, for the use of DoH-M, to provide some context or contrast (or agreement?) with the findings of the survey. Lastly, have other
surveys or studies looking at the same topic been published? This could be mentioned (positive or negative) and, if so, compared to the results of this study, especially if the studies were geographically different (eg. ESPA vs North America/USA).

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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