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: 19 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Nan Gai

Reviewer's report:

This was a well-written manuscript about an interesting topic. Thank you.

I have a few comments to be addressed please:

1. Regarding the methodology, there is no mention of how the survey instrument was developed and whether there was any testing of it prior to distribution. Could you add a description of this process and if any theoretical frameworks were involved in the development?

2. Related to the survey instrument development, one question that I feel would have been interesting would have been to ask about a theoretical intent to use DoH-M. I note that you have excluded anaesthesiologists who did not have DoH-M devices available at their institution. This may have excluded clinicians who would favour use of such devices if given the choice. Do you perceive this as a potential limitation in your study?

3. The response rate to the survey was low. I did not see a description of efforts put in to maximize survey response rate. For example, were the invitations to participate sent multiple times or just as a single one-time email? Related to this, was there any type of power calculation done to determine an adequate sample size for your analyses?

4. Regarding this sentence in your Discussion Page 10: "It seems as if the majority of paediatric anaesthesiologists have either significant reservations regarding the reliability and/or applicability of DoH monitors…", I do not think this statement is supported by your study. It is well-known that surveys have an inherent limitation with low response rates. Therefore, the low response rate here does not necessarily generalize to any conclusions that can be
made about interest in DoH-M. I do not think such a strongly worded conclusion can be made simply based on a low response rate.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
No

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

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

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:
1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal