Reviewer’s report

Title: Transversus abdominis plane block with general anesthesia blunts the perioperative stress response in patients undergoing radical gastrectomy

Version: 1 Date: 18 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Sujoy Banik

Reviewer's report:

I thank the editorial team for the opportunity to review the authors work and I congratulate the authors on their work and their dedication to their patients. I am happy to see that TAP block, which is quite the rage and the "in-thing" in anesthesia currently has been able to reduce inflammatory mediators. As I understand your work, sufentanil was administered to both groups and there was no significant difference in pain VAS scores, but as expected the postoperative morphine consumption and sufentanil use was markedly lesser in the TAP group. As you have mentioned in the limitations this may be one of the factors by which the immunomodulation may have occurred. However it would also be prudent to perform a multivariate analysis of the data to understand whether the effect on the inflammatory markers were independent of each other or not, as the modulatory effect of sufentanil would be much lesser than the control group by virtue of being used in a significantly lesser amount. However that may also be the subject of another study, as only IL-6 and IL-10 are not the sole determinants of the immune reaction to stress. Therefore I am happy with the authors work being published in the journal, as an important reminder of the significant role played by regional anesthesia over and beyond the expected outcomes.

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.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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