Reviewer's report

Title: Role of sedation for agitated patients undergoing noninvasive ventilation in clinical practice

Version: 2 Date: 7 March 2015

Reviewer: Monica Rocco

Reviewer's report:

The authors studied the "Role of sedation for agitated patients undergoing noninvasive ventilation in clinical practice" an important and well known issue.

Major Compulsory revisions:

The question posed by the authors is focused on the efficacy and safety of sedation for agitated patients undergoing NIV in clinical practice. They retrospectively reviewed sedated patients who received NIV due to acute respiratory failure from May 2007 to May 2012 choosing numerous different drugs used alone or with a second drug, intermittently or switched to continuous or in a continuous infusion from the beginning. The patients were also divided as DNI or non-DNI procedure.

The analysis of these data are really difficult or impossible as the number of the patients in the subgroups are really low and heterogeneous for the large number of drugs used and their large heterogeneity in term of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.

The take home message is too general: sedation during NIV could be feasible.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.