Reviewer’s report

Title: Does visualisation during urethrocystoscopy provide pain relief? Results of an observational study.

Version: 2
Date: 21 October 2014
Reviewer: FILIPPO MARIA M TURRI

Reviewer’s report:

This study, despite the limitations clearly stated by the authors, is well done. I simply think, as stated by the authors in their conclusions, that "real-time visualisation alone does not make the urethrocystoscopy less painful"

What I feel moreover to object is that the differences in pain perception with flexible instruments (2 vs 3.5, p=0.007), even if significant, are always within the range of "mild pain" (as defined by the authors) and thus can not be considered truly distressing. What makes a difference is whether patients had previous experience of the procedure or not, as already published (Greenstein A, Greenstein I, Senderovich S, Mabjeesh NJ. Is diagnostic cystoscopy painful? Analysis of 1,320 consecutive procedures. Int Braz J Urol. 2014 Jul-Aug;40(4):533-8)

Females suffered more pain because rigid instruments were used in all but 2 patients. I suggest to use flexible instruments to reduce pain, as already published by others (Greenstein A, Greenstein I, Senderovich S, Mabjeesh NJ. Is diagnostic cystoscopy painful? Analysis of 1,320 consecutive procedures. Int Braz J Urol. 2014 Jul-Aug;40(4):533-8)

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests