Reviewer's report

Title: Pelvic plexus block to provide better anesthesia in transperineal template-guided prostate biopsy: a randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 16 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

No - there are minor issues

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

No - there are issues with the statistics in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Maybe - with major revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Being a randomized controlled trial is the main strength of this study however, there are some major issues that need to be addressed. It is not clear how the sample size was calculated (it is not clear how much improvement in pain scale was expected by using PPB for sample size calculation). Only a few outcome measures were assessed and the manuscript needs language editing.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Objective of the study is not clear. It should be clarified what was the gap in the current literature that authors tried to address.

*Page 3, Lines 27-29: Please clarify what you mean by that statement.

*Sample size calculation needs to be clarified (please see my comment in the previous section).

*It is not clear if patients received any other medications such as acetaminophen or NSAIDS.

*Page 4, line 47: Please mention which tests were used.

* Discussion needs to be reorganized. Significant part of the discussion is repeating the introduction section. Authors needs to compare study findings with previous reports and clarify what their study adds to the current literature.

*Limitations of the study needs to be discussed in the discussion.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.
Please confirm that you have included your review in the 'Comments to Author' box?
As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors' hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

Please note that we may not be able to use your review if no comments are provided.

Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included as text in the 'Comments to Author' box.

Yes

Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?
Please state in the 'Comments to Authors' box below what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods (study design, data collection, and data analysis), and what is required, if anything, to improve the quality of reporting

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please explain in the 'Comments to Author' box below.

No

Are you able to assess the statistics?
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

Please can you confirm which of the following statements apply to your statistical assessment of the manuscript (Please include details of what the authors need to address in the 'Comments to Author' box):

I have been able to assess all of the statistics in this manuscript (please refer to checklist above)
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in the 'Comments to Author' box below.

Yes

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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No

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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