Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of a high-dose target-controlled naloxone infusion on pain and hyperalgesia in patients following groin hernia repair: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 4 Date: 7 September 2015

Reviewer: Jorgen Lauridsen

Reviewer's report:

The study design appears adequate to test the hypotheses, which are genuinely formulated according to the problem under study. The statistical analysis is appropriate to do the intended tests, and proper sample size considerations are done. The presentation is sufficient enough to allow replication. Finally, the layout of figures and writing style appears satisfying, the length of the presentation is reasonable, and references are comprehensively provided.

My only minor comment regards the calculation of sample size. This calculation relies on an "estimate(s) of intra-individual standard deviation of mean BL-SPI of 1.2 NRSunits...". I believe that this figure is an assumed standard deviation? If so, this should be explicitly stated, otherwise, the source of the estimate reported. Also, if it is an assumed figure, an indication of the sensitivity to the assumption might conveniently be shortly reported; for example as the increase in sample size under assumption of larger standard deviation(s).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests