Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of PReOperative Midazolam on OuTcome of Elderly patients (I-PROMOTE): study protocol for a multicentre randomised controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 24 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Zsolt Molnár

Reviewer’s report:

This is potentially important study on the postoperative effects of routine midazolam premedication in the elderly. The design of the trial is well thought through and discussed in every detail in the manuscript. In fact the paper has important learning qualities for the readers. I only have two minor comments:

1. Is intubation an inclusion criterion? The 7th inclusion criterion is: "Planned extubation at the end of surgery". However, in point 5 it is stated that "surgery duration ≥30 minutes". Several interventions in this category (even laparoscopic hernia repairs) can be done with laryngeal mask. Please clarify this issue.

2. There are a lot of secondary end points. It seems to me that these are a bit too ambitious, although it is also obvious that the study team would not like to overlook any potentially important outcome detail. It is just a gut feeling of mine, nothing more.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the team for this robust work.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

Quality of figures
All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

Statistical review
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I have no competing conflict of interest.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal

Were you mentored through this peer review?

No