Reviewer’s report

Title: Malfunctioning Sufentanil Intrathecal Pain Pump Case Report

Version: 0 Date: 23 May 2019

Reviewer: Uma Hariharan

Reviewer's report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic? Yes

Yes/No

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

Comments: None

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature? Yes

Yes/No

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

a. The relevant patient information, including:

- De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity)

- Main symptoms of the patient

- Medical, family and psychosocial history: Details about past history and previous pain interventions missing

- Relevant past interventions and their outcomes: Why was Sufentanil chosen in the first place in the intrathecal drug delivery system for this patient? What other pain medication did the patient take prior to ITDDS and why was spinal fusion performed?

b. The relevant physical examination findings: What happened after discharge of the patient? What medications were taken at home and till how long did he not complain of pain?

c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial
presentation, i.e. initial presentation at T = 0, follow up at T = 1 month. Did a follow-up of the patient was done and for how long?

d. Diagnostic assessments, including: Did the patient have symptoms of CRPS? What was the morphine equivalent opioid dose taken before the installation of ITDDS? Did the patient give history of previous opioid use or withdrawal symptoms?

- Diagnostic methods

- Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural)

- Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable

e. Types and mechanism of intervention

Is there a company support system from Medtronics in your setup for issues related to pump malfunction? What about cost issues, especially since the patient discontinued Sufentanil pump.

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits

Comments:

5. Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented? Yes

Comments:

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below. Yes/No

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments: Yes

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?

Comments: Yes

9. Additional comments for the author(s)? Kindly mention all details of his chronic pain: diagnosis, surgeries, medications and other therapies. What was the cause for pump malfunction so early after installation?
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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