

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4341-review.doc).

Title: *Regional Anesthesia for Acute Pain Management in Elderly Patients*

Author: Jinlei Li, Thomas M. Halaszynski

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Anesthesiology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4341

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) 00506103

The article is a comprehensive review about deterioration of physiologic function in the elderly patients, particularly not collaborative patients for impaired cerebral function. However, I think that a distinction between elderly patients with severe cerebral dysfunction and elderly patient with impaired organic function, as respiratory, metabolic or cardiovascular, is very important. Not collaborative patients could be not candidate to locoregional anesthesia. Moreover, I think that the introduction section could be shortened while a comment regarding to combined epidural and spinal analgesia should be added because the results of more recent articles do not support the effectiveness of epidural analgesia for postoperative respiratory and cardiovascular complications. Furthermore, the use of antiplatelet drugs, NSAID's, aspirin can be a problem especially in epidural block. Also the effect of single administration of spinal opioids that do not give hemodynamic effects compared to local anesthetics could be an efficacious analgesic for 18-24 h. Lastly, the authors report the importance and ethic of postoperative analgesia but the positive effects on POCD is not fully reported.

(2) 02446023

(3) 00506045

It is a review article about the use of regional anesthesia for elderly patients. It is useful to have update information about this topic. However, the authors need to consider some major points in order to improve the manuscript. Title: 1. This manuscript is mainly about the use of regional in elderly. There are some parts for cognitively impaired patients but many are not related. The authors should consider revising the title. Abstract: 1. The last sentence: the manuscript is about the regional in elderly and not the focus of anesthesiologists. Introduction: 1. More reference should be quoted at this part. For example, "However, there is some demonstration and evidence-based outcomes...": Any reference? 2. The first paragraph: "Therefore, the focus of this review is directed toward geriatric patients....." : it is not the same as the title for cognitively impaired patients. 3. Figure 1: any example for sympathetic nerve block for acute pain relief? 4. Figure 2: It is not directly related to the topic and can be omitted. Otherwise, the introduction is too long. 5. The stress should be regional in elderly patients and not the role of anesthesiologists. Main contents: 1. The authors should be consistent in each part of the main contents. It is good to have the introduction of different body systems, which is followed by the impacts of anesthesia/ regional on them with evidence. Each part should have similar structures. 2. More references are required when introducing the basic information of each body system. 3. Why did the authors only discuss the hip surgery? Back surgery and knee surgery are

also common in elderly patients. Conclusions: The conclusion is too long. It should be concise and conclude the important parts of the article. References: The references are not update enough. Only one reference from 2009 and most are between 1990 to 2005. The references should be most update ones. Are there any more new information/ evidence in recent 5 years? The authors have to make sure the references are completed and up to date.

Peer reviewer: Jeff Huang

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

****Please be certain that the most recent version of the manuscript is the one being circulated as some of the comments from this most recent reviewer were identified by previous reviewers and already addressed and corrected.****

The most recent reviewer comments are listed/identified below in “..”. The reviewer’s comments (below) are appreciated and have been addressed. As commented by the reviewer, there is some well-known information related to the elderly surgical patient, but the information was placed into the newer and most recent (evidence-based when possible and also by expert consensus/opinion) context as to how to consider better management of the elderly surgical patient due to the altered or diseased condition(s) that elderly patients often present with during the perioperative period. Simply offering an alternative perioperative anesthesia plan(s) for elderly patients without including the context for such considerations or alternative anesthetic choices will be less impactful.

Publishing other articles considering each of the organ systems of the elderly patient individually would be a worthy endeavor and one that would be unique. Such an attempt could serve as a valuable “series” for ALL healthcare providers and one that has not yet been attempted.

****Title for the manuscript has been changed.****

****References have been corrected, adjusted and confirmed.****

“Geriatric anesthesiology is a new field-with many areas of controversy and uncertainty. The article addresses several of these controversies. but much of this information is not new.

Authors did try to review the important systems, they addressed heavily on nervous system. however, renal system is also very important for pharmacokinetics, therefore authors should consider a separate chapter to review renal system.

the author titled Regional for Acute Pain Medicine in Cognitively Impaired & Elderly Patients. Therefore it is important to discuss about informed consent for these patients. Regional techniques are interventional procedures. Informed consent is necessary. It is a challenging job to consent patients.

Peripheral nerve blocks are becoming popular. The effects of peripheral nerve blocks on elderly patients should be addressed separately.

Overall, for open journal, the article can be accepted for publication”

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Anesthesiology.

Sincerely yours,

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Anesthesiology*.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas M. Halaszynski, D.M.D., M.D., M.B.A.

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology

Department of Anesthesiology

Yale University School of Medicine

333 Cedar Street, P.O. Box 208051

New Haven, Connecticut 06520-8051

E-mail: thomas.halaszynski@yale.edu