

Response to Reviewers

This is the response to reviewers for the manuscript “Donepezil-related inadequate neuromuscular blockade during laparoscopic surgery: A case report”. We appreciate the assessor’s sincere criticism. According to their proper chastisement, we have carried out the major corrections. The answers to the comments are as follows:

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

You report a patient taking donepezil who showed resistant to usual dose of rocuronium, and showed objective evidence of resistant to rocuronium by measuring train-of-four stimulation. The report is important for anesthesiologists as there is increasing number of subjects with dementia taking donepezil these days.

The clinical course of the patient is difficult to understand, because the presentation is unusual for a scientific paper. I am afraid your manuscript needs drastic amendment.

General comments: You need to present clinical course of the patient chronologically.

⇒ **We appreciate the reviewer’s sincere criticism!**

⇒ **We have revised the manuscript according to the comments of the reviewer.**

Specific comments: Doses of used drugs in the patient and the patients cited in your manuscript need to be stated. This would greatly helpful to readers to understand the importance of your manuscript. I would recommend specific drug names be stated instead of anti-dementia drug, neuromuscular blocking agent, and so on.

⇒ **Following recommendations of the reviewer, we added doses of used drugs in the present case and the cited case reports. (In some cited case reports, additional doses of neuromuscular blocking agents were not described.)**

⇒ **We have added specific drug names or changed into specific drug names instead of anti-dementia drug, neuromuscular blocking agent, inhalational anesthetic and so on.**

You wrote that “adequate neuromuscular blockade was achieved with the subsequent

administration of an inhalational anesthetic and another NMBA.” This would mean that cisatracurium was also effective to gain neuromuscular block as was desflurane. Do you mean it?

- ⇒ Much to our regrets, we administered desflurane and cisatracurium at the same time. Therefore, we cannot determine which of those drugs were effective to gain neuromuscular blockade: one of them or both.
- ⇒ We added discussion about this matter for clear meaning, together with the reviewer’s last comment regarding the pharmacological differences of rocuronium and cisatracurium with donepezil.

Case presentation

We usually present a patient in the order of clinical history, results of physical examination, laboratory results, anesthetic/surgical course, and postoperative events. I think your presentation is quite different from usual manuscripts. You stated previous anesthetic/surgical events in the discussion section. I think that should be stated in the section of case presentation.

- ⇒ We agree with the reviewer’s opinion. We moved some sentences to present clinical courses more chronologically. Especially, previous anesthetic/surgical events were added in the section of case presentation.
- ⇒ The suggested order by the reviewer might be more appropriate for our anesthetic event case. However, we just tried to write the case presentation according to the Guidelines for Case Reports of this journal as below. We hope to have your understanding.
- ⇒ Introduction:

Case Presentation: Under the heading of Case Presentation, the following seven aspects must be presented in this order: 1) Chief complaints; 2) History of present illness; 3) History of past illness; 4) Personal and family history; 5) Physical examination upon admission; 6) Laboratory examinations; and 7) Imaging examinations

[Final diagnosis](#)

[Treatment](#)

[Outcome and follow-up](#)

[Discussion](#)

[Conclusion](#)

You stated that “patient’s vital signs, including blood pressure, heart rate, and peripheral oxygen saturation...” What is the definition of vital signs?

- ⇒ **We just meant that there were no significant problems after treatment for insufficient muscle relaxation. Peripheral oxygen saturation is not included in the traditional vital signs, but we think that oxygen saturation is considered as one of additional vital signs.**
- ⇒ **We removed the phrase “including blood pressure, heart rate, and peripheral oxygen saturation” to avoid misunderstanding.**

Discussion

You stated that “The additional administration of cisatracurium may also have contributed to the observed improvement.” You need to state the pharmacological differences of rocuronium and cisatracurium with donepezil.

- ⇒ **As the reviewer suggested, we stated the structural differences of rocuronium and cisatracurium. We also added possible mechanisms related with additional cisatracurium at the end of discussion.**