

April 28, 2021

Dear Editor,

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 66325

Manuscript Type: ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Title: Erector Spinae Plane Block at Lower Thoracic Level for Analgesia in Lumbar Spine Surgery: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Author: Jing-Jing Zhang, Teng-jiao Zhang, Zong-Yang Qu, Yong Qiu, Zhen Hua

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

The first reviewer's comments and my answer

(1) The manuscript is very well written. However, some minor language polishing should be revised. And please take attention about some uncommon abbreviations.

Answer: The language polishing has been revised, and the abbreviations have been checked.

(2) What's the exclude criteria? Please check and make a clarify.

Answer: The exclude criteria has been checked, described as following: Patients were excluded if they met any of the following criteria: (1) refusal to participate in the study, (2) ASA physical classification of IV or higher, (3) preoperative cognitive dysfunction or communication disorder, (4) infection at the puncture site, (5) allergy to amide-type local anesthetics, (6) neuromuscular disease, (7) hepatic or renal insufficiency, (8) emergency surgery, (9) chronic opioid use, or (10) participation in another clinical study.

(3) The discussion is very long, please making necessary revisions to short the words.

Answer: The discussion has been shortened.

Editorial office's comments and my answer

(1) The "Author Contributions" section is missing. Please provide the author contributions.

Answer: The author contributions has been provided.

(2) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

Answer: The figure documents has been provided.

(3) The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text.

Answer: The Article Highlights has been added.

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

Yours sincerely

Zhen Hua, MD, on behalf of all authors

Chief

Department of Anesthesiology

Beijing Hospital, National Center of Gerontology

No. 1 Dahua Street, Dongcheng District

Beijing 100730, China

Tel: 86 10 85136405(O), +86 13621037655(M)

Email:hua1013@163.com