Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy of Intraoperative Epidural Steroids in Lumbar Discectomy: A Systematic Review

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Version: 2 Date: 9 April 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Author’s response to reviews: See over
Reviewer's Report (1)

Title: Efficacy of Perioperative Epidural Steroids in Lumbar Discectomy: A Review

Version 1 Date: 19 March 2014

Reviewer: Saleh Baeesa

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

The authors reviewed the efficacy of intraoperative epidural application of steroids following lumbar discectomy. They should keep their review very clear by removing the word “preoperative” from the title and the text, as it gives the impression that steroids were applied in the period before, during, and after the surgical procedure.

The word we used was “perioperative” rather “preoperative” and to make it less confusing we replaced it by the word “intraoperative” throughout the manuscript

The authors need to add in the inclusion that studies were included regardless of giving, or not, intravenous steroids in addition to epidural application of steroids, as they have included some studies were intravenous steroids were administered.

The sentence in page 3 paragraph 1 was completed to include the suggested addition “irrespective of whether the patients also received steroids intravenously”

Discretionary Revisions:

It will be interesting to compare the subgroups of studies where patients received additional epidural and intravenous medication to those who did not to see if the result can be added to the conclusion.

We agree that the point is of interest. However, it is would be hard to assess because additional intravenous steroids was given only to a small number of patients in two series. This implies that it would be difficult to reach any conclusions and will distract from the main message of the paper which relates to the efficacy of intraoperative epidural steroids in disc surgery

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.
Reviewer's Report (2)

Title: Efficacy of Perioperative Epidural Steroids in Lumbar Discectomy: A Review

Version 1 Date: 2 April 2014

Reviewer: Kitti Jirarattanaphochai

Reviewer's report:
Major compulsory revision
NONE
Minor essential revisions
NONE
Discretionary revisions
NONE

Reviewer 2 has no suggested changes for the manuscript

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests in relation to the paper

Reviewer's Report (3)

Title: Efficacy of Perioperative Epidural Steroids in Lumbar Discectomy: A Review

Version 1 Date: 2 April 2014

Reviewer: Iraj Lotfinia

Reviewer's report:
It is written perfectly. As the authors said use of intraoperative epidural steroids in lumbar disc surgery, a matter that remains controversial. The authors collect data’s appropriately and take good conclusion. For this reason, I think it is a valuable article.

Reviewer 3 has no suggested changes for the manuscript