OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine
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Peer Review Report for "Effect of Preoperative Duloxetine on Opioid Consumption in Women Undergoing Abdominal Hysterectomy: A Randomized, Double-Blinded, Placebo-Controlled Trial"

Author(s): Ehsan Bastanhagh, Fahime Zamiri, Saghar Samimi Sadeh, Khadijeh Adabi, Pejman Pourfakhr

Review Timeline:

Submit Date:	14 Apr 2020
Revised Date:	13 Jul 2020
Accepted Date:	17 Jul 2020

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

Tohid Karami: Reviewer | Revision (0) — 8 May 2020

Dear AE,
Q1: Previous studies have shown conflicting results in the use of duloxetine in various surgeries to control acute pain. This study claimed that duloxetine was not effective for controlling pain after abdominal hysterectomy with the increased rate of nausea and vomiting.
Q2: The paper has some grammar mistakes.
Regard

Mohammad Amin Valizade Hasanloei: Reviewer | Revision (0) — 12 May 2020

Dear AE,
Consider the following points:
1. In Topic: It is better to write efficacy instead of effect.
2. The abstract should be written according to a journal structure.

3. In the introduction, it's better to determine the importance of the research topic, its position abroad and Iran, and the reason for performing this reaserch. How many related studies have been carried out in other countries? Has such a study been conducted in Iran? or it is the first time that such a study is being conducted?
4. In the method section, it seems that the place of Premedication and induction is wrong. Premedication drugs, including fentanyl and midazolam, and two drugs, propofol, and atracurium, have been used for induction, then the text requires correction. The number of patients included in the study should be determined, as well as the reason for excluding both cases in both groups. It should be noted that in the results section, it is mentioned that two cases were omitted from each group.
5. In the results section, the tests used in the table should be written in front of each variable. The severity of pain, which is based on VAS, has been studied in two groups, but the results have not been shown, which needs to be presented and its comparing with the relevant statistical test should be presented in the table. Nausea and vomiting may have been compared qualitatively and have not been graded according to their severity, but they should have been done. The unit of measurement for the time of opioid use should be mentioned after surgery, which was in minutes or hours.
6. The discussion section should be strengthened and the results of the present study should be compared with previous studies, and the reason for their difference should be mentioned (The reason for more nausea and vomiting in the study group compared to the control group or the reason for the lack of better pain control by the used drug, which is in contrary to previous studies, should be mentioned).
7. In addition, the grammatical and writing errors of the article, as well as the English language review, should be done by a native person.
With best regards

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) 13 May 2020

Dear AE,
This study focused on Duloxetine and pain control in abdominal hysterectomy but the study claimed that duloxetine was not effective in abdominal hysterectomy postoperative pain and increased rate of nausea and vomiting are shown.
- Replace Duloxetine with Duloxetine in the whole paper.
Methods:
- Write the number of patients who entered the study and the number of two groups.
Results :
- In table 1: add the unit of measurement of “Time duration from surgery to receive opioid”
Thanks.

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 13 May 2020

Dear EIC,
According to respected reviewers comments the manuscript needs major revisions.
Kind regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) 14 May 2020

Dear Author,

The reviewers' comments are mentioned. Please correct the details as mentioned above carefully according to reviewers' request.

Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Dear EIC

Thank you for valuable recommendation and considerations, we've tried to use them and correct our manuscript according to your comments.

Sincerely

Saghar Samimi

Reviewers' Comments:

Reviewer 1:
Dear Associate editor
Consider the following points:
1.In Topic : It is better to write efficacy instead of effect. Thank you for your comment, we changed it: The Efficacy of Pre-operative Duloxetine on Opioid Consumption in Women Undergoing Abdominal Hysterectomy: A Randomized, Double-Blinded, Placebo-Controlled Trial.

2. The abstract should be written according to a journal structure. Thank you for your comment, Done

3. In the introduction, its better to determine the importance of the research topic, its position in abroad and Iran and the reason of performing this reaserch. How many related studies have been carried out in other countries? Has such a study been conducted in Iran? or it is the first time that such a study is being conducted? Thank you for your comment, we changed it : Some studies suggested further research is needed to determine the effectiveness of duloxetine and what an optimal dose would be for management of acute post-operative pain (11, 12).

There are few studies, and certainly none in Iran, evaluating the role of pre-operative duloxetine in controlling pain prior to a hysterectomy. This study will look to assess the effects of pre-operative duloxetine in controlling post-operative pain in women undergoing abdominal hysterectomy.

4. In the method section, it seems that the place of Premedication and induction is wrong. Premedication drugs, including fentanyl and midazolam, and two drugs, propofol and atracurium, have been used for induction, then the text requires correction. The number of patients included in the study should be determined, as well as the reason for excluding both cases in both groups. It should be noted that in the results section, it is mentioned that two cases were omitted from each group. Thank you for your comment, we changed it: The study involves eighty women, who were all candidates for elective abdominal hysterectomy. Two patients in each group withdrew before the study finish, two of them for surgical plan alteration during the surgery and two others for the

unexpected surgery duration.All subjects were pre-medicated with 2 µg/kg fentanyl, and 2 mgs midazolam and induction of anesthesia was administered with 0.5 mg/kg atracurium and 2-2.5 mg/kg propofol. For maintenance of the anesthesia Isoflurane gas with 1-1.5 MAC was used.

5. In the results section, the tests used in the table should be written in front of each variable. The severity of pain, which is based on VAS, has been studied in two groups, but the results have not been shown, which needs to be presented and its comparing with the relevant statistical test should be presented in the table. Nausea and vomiting may have been compared qualitatively and have not been graded according to their severity, but they should have been done. The unit of measurement for the time of opioid use should be mentioned after surgery, which was in minutes or hours. Thank you for your comment, Done

6. The discussion section should be strengthened and the results of the present study should be compared with previous studies, and the reason for their difference should be mentioned (The reason for more nausea and vomiting in the study group compared to the control group or the reason for the lack of better pain control by the used drug, which is in contrary to previous studies, should be mentioned). Thank you for your comment:
Some studies suggested further research is needed to determine the effectiveness of duloxetine and what an optimal dose would be for management of acute post-operative pain (11, 12).
Duloxetine could balance pain perception and help to control it (16), however, Kammer et al. in their meta-analysis demonstrated there is not enough evidence for clinical use of duloxetine for acute post-operative pain (11).
Previous studies also showed an increase of nausea and vomiting with duloxetine that could be dose-dependent (17).

7. In addition, the grammatical and writing errors of the article as well as the English language review should be done by a native person. Thank you for your comment, Done

With best regards

Reviewer 2:
Q1: Previous studies have shown conflicting results in the use of duloxetine in various surgeries to control acut pain.This study claimed that duloxetine was not effective for

controlling pain after abdominal hysterectomy with increased rate of nausea and vomiting. Thank you for your comment: Some studies suggested further research is needed to determine the effectiveness of duloxetine and what an optimal dose would be for management of acute post-operative pain (11, 12). Previous studies also showed an increase of nausea and vomiting with duloxetine that could be dose-dependent (17).

Q2: The paper has some grammar mistakes. Thank you for your comment, Done
Regard

Reviewer 3:

This study focused on Duloxetine and pain control in abdominal hysterectomy but study claimed that duloxetine was not effective in abdominal hysterectomy postoperative pain and increased rate of nausea and vomiting are shown.
Replace Doloxetine with Duloxetine in whole of paper. Thank you for your comment, Done

Methods:

Write the number of patients who entered the study and number of two groups. Thank you for your comment: The study involves eighty women, who were all candidates for elective abdominal hysterectomy. Two patients in each group withdrew before the study finish, two of them for surgical plan alteration during the surgery and two others for the unexpected surgery duration.

Results :

In table 1 : add the unit of measurement of “Time duration from surgery to receive opioid” Thank you for your comment: The time interval between the end of the surgery to the first opioid consumption(hour)

Associate Editor's Comments:

Associate Editor 1:
Dear Editor in Chief
According to respected reviewers comments the manuscript needs major revisions.
Kind regards

EIC Decision:

Major Revision

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (1) 16 Jul 2020

Dear AE,
The authors have corrected the manuscript according to the respected reviewers' comments.
Best regards

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (1) 16 Jul 2020

Dear EIC,
According to the reviewer's comments, the respected authors have corrected the manuscript according to the reviewers' recommendations.
Best regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (1) 17 Jul 2020

Dear Author,
The document is reviewed carefully by the reviewers. According to their comments and your revisions as requested, this manuscript is accepted.
Thanks.