*Cover Letter*

Dear Editor,

I am writing with pleasure to submit our manuscript entitled, “Efficacy of tramadol as an adjuvant to bupivacaine for caudal analgesia in children: a randomized controlled trial” for consideration for publication in Journal of Society of Anesthesiologists of Nepal.This manuscript describes original research and has not been submitted or published earlier in any other journal. All authors approved the manuscript and this submission.

The research meets all applicable standards with regard to the ethics of experimentation and research integrity.None of the authors of this paper has a financial or personal relationship with other people or organizations and it is to specifically state that no competing interests are at stake and there is no conflict of interest with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence or bias the content of the paper.

In children, caudal anesthesia is typically combined with general anesthesia for intraoperative supplementation and postoperative analgesia for surgical procedures below the diaphragm like urogenital, rectal, inguinal, and lower extremity.Tramadol is one of the various adjuvants added to local anesthetic which is a synthetic opioid analgesic equipotent to pethidine with striking lack of respiratory depressant effect. We commonly practice intravenous Tramadol for analgesia but the practice of administering Tramadol epidurally is not commonly practiced in our set up. Similarly there are a lot of studies done by administering Tramadol epidurally as an adjuvant to Bupivacaine in different parts of the world but there is lack of sufficient studies in our set up. From those studies, it has been shown that epidural Tramadol prolongs the duration of analgesia. So this study was conducted in a tertiary care pediatric hospital to find out the duration of analgesia of Bupivacaine in combination with Tramadol caudally so that we can routinely use this drug for the benefit of the patients. It was observed in this study that the mean duration of pain relief was significantly longer (467.5±164.5 min versus 240.5±69.4 min, *P*<0.001) when Tramadol was used in combination with Bupivacaine compared to Bupivacaine alone. So it was concluded from this study that Tramadol 1mg/kg as an adjuvant to bupivacaine 0.25% for caudal analgesia in children is effective in increasing the duration of analgesia without an increase of adverse effects.

Thank you for receiving our manuscript and considering it for review. We appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Kind regards

*Previous presentation of the work*

Poster presentation done in the 11th SAARCA-AA Congress and 16th SAN National Conference held at Hotel Soaltee, Kathmandu, Nepal from 26th to 28th February 2015

Disclosure: The research represents the thesis work of the residency program.

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