

Peer Review

Review of: "Pioneering Spinal Anesthesia: A Historical Examination of Benedetto Schiassi's Landmark Work"

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Very nicely written historical perspective on the first use of spinal anesthesia in Italy. For the most part, the English and grammar are quite good, especially for authors who I assume do not use English daily or for whom English is not their primary language. But, I think the manuscript can be improved by using an English language specialist. Thank you for sharing it with us.

Specifics:

1. You write: "evolution of spinal anesthesia as a safer [BS1]"

[BS1]Is spinal anesthesia "safer?" Safer than what? When you use "safer," you must include a comparator. Is spinal anesthesia "safer?" But, safer than what? When you use "safer," you must include a comparator.

2. This is not a study but rather a review.

3. How will this help surgeons explore advances in operative care? The report is really about anesthesiology, not surgery.

4. The abbreviations are not commonly used in English language publications. Neither is "centigram."

5. "Anesthesia" is used in some places where "anesthetic" is the better term.

6. I discourage the use of the word "suffer," which implies anguish. Perhaps just "...had previously had adverse reactions..."

7. You write: “Bier’s clinical decision consisted in....” and “The surgical intervention performed was the resection....” Are both examples of wordy, convoluted phrasing. Best to write simply to assist the reader with easy comprehension.
8. Refunctionalization is not a common word or phrase in medicine. This is one definition: Refunctionalization is the process of changing the function or purpose of something, or repurposing it. It can also refer to the act of redesigning a function to improve its usefulness. I don’t believe we can change the function of organs.
9. “Bronchotomy” is another atypical word in English medical writings.
10. Please report events chronologically. For example, you write that the anesthetic was successful and the patient tolerated the procedure, and then in the next paragraph, you write about the dose of cocaine that was used.
11. You write: “reaffirming the paternity,” is odd phrasing. I suspect this is referring to Schiassi noting that he was the first to perform spinal anesthesia in Italy? But, paternity refers to being one’s father and is not the correct word to use outside of that context.
12. Table. Prone spinals are still done, though much less commonly. That is an excellent technique for hemorrhoidectomies in the jackknife, prone position using low doses of hypobaric lidocaine. One can achieve almost a pure saddle block if one places the patient first in the prone jackknife position. One often has to aspirate spinal fluid, as there may not be spontaneous return against gravity, especially with very small caliber spinal needles.
13. Table. “Spindle inside” I don’t know what this means.
14. Table. “Deliquoration” is not a common medical term in English.
15. Table. “Anesthesiological” is not a common term.
16. Best to describe spinal needles as “cutting” or “pencil point.”

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.