Review of: "Identification of Cervical Epidural Space: A Comparison Study between Contrast Spread and Loss of Resistance Techniques"

Mohammed Ashour[1]

1 Ain Shams University

Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the author, Yakov, for this interesting manuscript. The idea and the discussion can tell about a long experience in the field. For me, the fruitful dynamic discussions and replies of both the author and the reviewers were beneficious.

To summarize my comments in points;

· **Background and Abstract:**

"Currently, the accepted method for epidural space recognition is the loss of resistance technique". Despite widely used, caution as regards this consideration. Thus, this description may be inaccurate.

· **Introduction**

1. I expected to state the base for the Epidrum use as the hanging drop technique (the subatmospheric epidural space) and mentioning the Ultrasound guidance as a valuable alternative to confirm the epidural space identification .

2. "Fluoroscopy is not mandated by a procedural standard of care guidelines,..... is*obligatory* (two appropriate planes are required) for the confirmation " It is a vague statement.

· **Methods**

1. **Epidrum.** Despite being a debatable tool for the certainty of eidpural space identification (as stated in the limitations section and cited in the reference list, and that is a good point), it also has supporters in the literature with meta analysis of several RCTs.

2. **There is no clear difference identified between the terms 'Contrast Spread Technique' and the 'Fluoroscopy only method'. Thoroughout the manuscript, they are used interchangeably without clear cut edges.** Fortunately, the author tried to clarify this in the critique section. My advice to explain this further in the main body of the Methodology.

3. **Non randomizing** the sample size even between males and females needs reconsideration because this surely has negative impact on the reproducibility of the results.

Hoping to have the best chance to guide the final fine tuning of this preprint, to get published and become a part of the valuable literature.

Regards,

Mohammed Ashour