



## Re: Does Coadministration of Transforaminal Epidural Steroid Injection with Sedation Improve Patient Satisfaction?

### TO THE EDITOR:

We read the article "Does coadministration of transforaminal epidural steroid injection with sedation improve patient satisfaction? A prospective randomized clinical study" (1) with great interest. This creative work focused on practical questions that could contribute to the improvement of both patient and physician satisfaction in transforaminal epidural steroid injection (TFESI). Use of the modified Observer's Assessment of Alertness/Sedation scale to obtain the sedation depth is also commendable. In our opinion, using the Numeric Rating Scale for pain assessment is appropriate because both pain and satisfaction are subjective sensations, and should be assessed according to the individual's emotional reaction or attitude (2). However, we do have some comments about this study. First, the patients were not blinded to the intervention, therefore the result might be misleading. At the same time, patients only went through a sedation or nonsedation procedure and they did not have a chance to compare both techniques; therefore, it might be questionable to ask them whether they would like to undergo the procedure with the same technique. Also, all patients were in prone position during TFESI. Prone position might restrict chest expansion and compress the abdomen, which increases airway pressure (3). Therefore, fentanyl should be carefully used because of its risk of depressing respiration (4). Finally, the relationship between levels of sedation and midazolam in different doses for patients undergoing TEFSI needs to be investigated in further studies.

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