Announcement

THE CHARLES R. REAM, MD, AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE—2008

As Editor-in-Chief of Current Therapeutic Research, I am pleased to announce the recipients of the ninth Charles R. Ream, MD, Award for Excellence. They are: Jin-Chun Shen, MD, Jian-Guo Xu, MD, Zhi-Qiang Zhou, MD, Hong-Jun Lie, PhD, and Jian-Jun Yang, MD, for their article entitled, “Effect of Equivalent Doses of Fentanyl, Sufentanil, and Remifentanil on the Incidence and Severity of Cough in Patients Undergoing Abdominal Surgery: A Prospective, Randomized, Double-Blind Study.”1

The selection was particularly difficult this year, given the quality of the papers published in 2008. The editorial board nominated 5 efforts that were worthy of recognition, and my ultimate decision was made based on Dr. Ream’s commitment to high-quality, randomized, controlled studies that have a direct and relevant scientific impact. The study by Shen et al1 employs an appropriate design to address an outcome that is perceived as important to many patients.

Several studies have noted that cough is a major cause of postoperative discomfort and can lead to significant adverse health outcomes.2–5 The study by Shen et al1 assesses differences in the frequency and severity of cough after general anesthesia with fentanyl, sufentanil, or remifentanil. The findings suggest that there were significant benefits to the use of fentanyl or sufentanil in reducing both the incidence and severity of cough in Chinese patients who had undergone abdominal surgery.

Although the article examines a potentially important clinical question, its primary strength lies in the clear description of the methods used to conduct the study and perform the subsequent analysis. The authors fully describe the inclusion and exclusion criteria as well as the randomization and allocation concealment processes. The procedures used for delivery of the intervention and monitoring the outcomes are precisely defined. Finally, the results are well presented and focus directly on the primary study objectives as stated in the abstract.

On behalf of the editorial board of Current Therapeutic Research, it is my pleasure to present the 2008 Charles R. Ream, MD, Award for Excellence to Dr. Jin-Chun Shen et al. I sincerely hope that we will continue to receive manuscripts of this quality, and I look forward to another year of reviewing them.

Judd L. Walson, MD, MPH
Editor-in-Chief

REFERENCES


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