

A STUDY ON THE EFFICACY OF NALBUPHINE AS AN ADJUVANT TO BUPIVACAINE IN ULTRASOUND GUIDED SUPRACLAVICULAR BRACHIAL PLEXUS NERVE BLOCKS

INTRODUCTION: The brachial plexus nerve block is a novel regional anaesthetic technique which is evolving and flourishing as an adjuvant and sometimes as an alternative to general anaesthesia. Several adjuvants can be added to the local anaesthetic to increase the quality and duration of the blockade. This study aims to prove the efficacy of nalbuphine as an adjuvant to bupivacaine in ultrasound guided brachial plexus blocks.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: A total of 60 subjects were included in the study. 30 subjects (Test group N) received 25 ml of 0.5% bupivacaine with 10mg(1ml) of Nalbuphine. 30 subjects(group B) received 25 ml of 0.5% Bupivacaine with 1 ml normal saline. The onset and duration of motor and sensory blockade, quality of blockade and duration of post operative analgesia were noted. Side effects if any were noted.

RESULTS: Statistical analysis was done by SPSS ver16.0 software. There was no statistically significant difference between the onset of sensory and motor blockade. The mean duration of motor blockade was significantly increased in group N(459.00 minutes) , compared to group B(285.33 mins). There was also statistically significant increase in the sensory block duration in group N(646.47 minutes), compared to group B(345.67 mins). the quality of anesthesia was proved to be equivocal in both the groups. Major side effects were not observed in both the groups.

CONCLUSION: Anaesthetic agent 0.5% Bupivacaine with Nalbuphine in comparison with 0.5% Bupivacaine alone as an adjuvant for ultrasound guided brachial plexus blocks produced a longer duration of sensory as well as motor blockade without affecting the onset time of sensory and motor blockade.