

*DISSERTATION ON*

**A PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED  
STUDY COMPARING ANAESTHETIC EFFICACY OF  
INTRATHECAL NALBUPHINE HYDROCHLORIDE  
WITH BUPIVACAINE AND BUPIVACAINE ALONE  
FOR INFRAUMBILICAL SURGERIES**

*Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the regulations for the award of the degree of*

**M.D ANESTHESIOLOGY**

**BRANCH-X**

**Of**

**TAMIL NADU Dr. M.G.R. MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**

**CHENNAI, TAMILNADU**



**ESIC- MEDICAL COLLEGE & POSTGRADUATE  
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH,  
KK NAGAR, CHENNAI-78.**

**APRIL 2017**

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I solemnly declare that this dissertation entitled **"A PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED STUDY COMPARING ANAESTHETIC EFFICACY OF INTRATHECAL NALBUPHINE HYDROCHLORIDE WITH BUPIVACAINE AND BUPIVACAINE ALONE FOR INFRAUMBILICAL SURGERIES"** has been conducted by me at ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR, Chennai, under the guidance and supervision of **Dr.K.RADHIKA, M.D. and Dr. ILANGO GANESAN, M.D.**, Department of Anesthesiology, ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR, Chennai. This dissertation is submitted to **The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai** in partial fulfillment of the University regulations for the award of the degree of **M.D. Branch X (Anesthesiology)**.

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**Dr. KARTHICK. K**

## CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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Dear Dr. Karthick K,

The Institutional Ethical Committee of ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR reviewed and discussed your application for approval of the proposal entitled "**A prospective randomized controlled study comparing anaesthetic efficacy of intrathecal nalbuphine hydrochloride with bupivacaine and bupivacaine alone for infraumbilical surgeries**" at ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR, K K Nagar, Chennai 60Q 078", No. **04-03/07/2015**

The following members of the Ethical Committee were present in the meeting held on 03.07.2015 conducted at ESIC Medical College & PGIMSR, KK Nagar, Chennai-78.

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The proposal is approved to be conducted in its presented form.

The Institutional Ethical Committee expects to be informed about the progress of the study and significant adverse effects occurring in the course of the study, any changes in the protocol and patients information / informed consent and asks to be provided a copy of the final report.



[DR. A.V. SRINIVASAN]  
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### INTRODUCTION

Central neuraxial blockade is one of the most commonly performed technique in modern anaesthesia. In 1898, August Bier first described "cocainisation of the spinal cord". Over the years, the technique has been refined and has evolved into the modern concept of intrathecal, spinal or subarachnoid block. Spinal effects are produced by slow injection of a small volume of local anaesthetic solution containing glucose (to make it hyperbaric).

Among the regional techniques available, spinal anaesthesia is an attractive option when the surgical site is below umbilicus[1]. It produces dense

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# ***Introduction***

## INTRODUCTION

Central neuraxial blockade is one of the most commonly performed technique in modern anaesthesia. In 1898, August Bier first described "cocainisation of the spinal cord". Over the years, the technique has been refined and has evolved into the modern concept of intrathecal, spinal or subarachnoid block. Spinal effects are produced by slow injection of a small volume of local anaesthetic solution containing dextrose (to make it hyperbaric).

Among the regional techniques available, spinal anaesthesia is an attractive option when the surgical site is below umbilicus<sup>[1]</sup>. It produces dense sensory, motor and sympathetic blockade. It has the advantages of low cost, better postoperative pain relief, decreased PONV, low incidence of thromboembolism when compared to general anaesthesia. Subarachnoid block is associated with reduced stage I recovery time and patients can resume their normal oral intake quickly. Because of these benefits, spinal anaesthesia is one of the emerging technique in day care surgeries in recent times.

Spinal anaesthesia is beneficial in terms of decreasing intraoperative blood loss, blunting the stress response to surgery and

reducing mortality and morbidity in high risk surgical patients. Subarachnoid block is a preferred technique in patients who are prone to aspiration like obesity, full stomach, GERD and in patients with reduced respiratory drive.

In spite of the above benefits, the major limitation of subarachnoid block is short lived duration of anaesthesia. Normally, spinal anaesthesia with bupivacaine heavy (H) lasts for 2 to 2.5 hours<sup>[2]</sup>. Addition of adjuvants like opioids, neostigmine and epinephrine to the local anaesthetics intrathecally, results in prolongation of duration of anaesthesia.

In 1979, Wang and his colleagues<sup>[3]</sup> first used intrathecal opioids for acute pain treatment. Intrathecal opioid is widely used in treating intraoperative, postoperative, obstetric, traumatic and chronic cancer pain. The technique of intrathecal opioid administration along with local anaesthetics is to improve the quality of analgesia and decrease the requirement of postoperative analgesics<sup>[4]</sup>.

The basis for the combination of local anesthetics and opioids is that these two groups of drugs provide analgesia by their action at two different sites. Local anesthetics have their action at the spinal nerve axon

and opioids act at the receptor site in the spinal cord<sup>[5]</sup>. Various opioids have been used intrathecally like morphine, fentanyl, buprenorphine and nalbuphine to fasten the onset and prolong the duration of sensory and motor blockade.

Nalbuphine is an opioid, synthetically prepared with mixed  $\mu$  antagonist and  $\kappa$  agonist properties<sup>[6]</sup>. Nalbuphine when administered intrathecally binds to kappa receptors in the spinal cord and brain producing analgesia and sedation without  $\mu$  adverse effects. It has minimal respiratory depressant effect and low abuse potential compared to other centrally acting opioid analgesics. Side effects like shivering, nausea, vomiting and urinary retention are infrequent with nalbuphine hydrochloride. Increased drug dosage is not required, Since nalbuphine reaches ceiling effect at lower intrathecal dosage. This also explains the safety margin of the drug.

In this study, we investigated the addition of nalbuphine hydrochloride as an adjuvant to hyperbaric bupivacaine in subarachnoid block, in comparison with hyperbaric bupivacaine alone in order to evaluate the beneficial effects of nalbuphine.

***Aim of the  
study***



## **AIM OF THE STUDY**

The aim of the study was to compare the anaesthetic efficacy of mixture of intrathecal bupivacaine 0.5% heavy and nalbuphine hydrochloride with intrathecal bupivacaine 0.5% heavy alone for infraumbilical surgeries.

# *Objectives*

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the study was to compare the

1. Onset of sensory and motor blockade
2. Duration of sensory, motor blockade and postoperative analgesia between the two groups of patients who had undergone infraumbilical surgeries under spinal anaesthesia using bupivacaine heavy with or without nalbuphine.

***Review  
Of  
Literature***

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Khosrou Naghibi, Hamid Saryazdi, Farnaz Rohani<sup>[7]</sup> et al conducted a study in 2013 titled "The comparison of spinal anesthesia with general anesthesia on the postoperative pain scores and analgesic requirements after elective lower abdominal surgery". It was a prospective randomized controlled double blinded study. After obtaining informed written consent, sixty eight patients under American Society of Anaesthesiologist physical status I and II in the age group of 20-65 planned for elective lower abdominal surgery under general anaesthesia or spinal anaesthesia were included in the study. Patients were randomly divided into GA or SA by using sealed envelopes with thirty four patients in each group. VAS score was explained to all the patients prior to surgery. On arrival to the operating room, basic monitors [Electrocardiography, Noninvasive blood pressure, Pulse oximetry] were connected and IV line started with 18G cannula.

- Group SA - received 3ml of 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine (15mg) intrathecally, at L3-L4 interspace and 2 $\mu$ /kg fentanyl intravenously for intraoperative analgesia.

- Group GA - received Na thiopental 6mg/kg, fentanyl 2  $\mu$ /kg, morphine 0.15mg/kg, atracurium 0.6mg/kg for induction followed by tracheal intubation. Maintenance with O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O/isoflurane. Reversal with 0.02mg/kg atropine and 0.04 mg/kg neostigmine.

The pain scores and the analgesic requirements were noted in the recovery room for 24 hours after surgery. The authors concluded that the patients in SA group had comparatively lower VAS scores than the patients in GA group for the first 6 hours (3.4 $\pm$ 1.6 and 4.1 $\pm$ 1.2 vs 5.2 $\pm$ 1.5 and 5.8 $\pm$ 0.9 at 2nd and 4th hour postoperatively). Postoperative analgesic requirements was also significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) reduced in SA group. However there was no significant difference between the two groups after 6 hours.

Mukherjee A, Pal A, Agrawal J<sup>[8]</sup> et al did a study in 2011 titled "Intrathecal nalbuphine as an adjuvant to subarachnoid block: What is the most effective dose?". It was a randomized, prospective double blind controlled study. Hundred patients of ASA physical status I and II posted for elective lower limb orthopedic surgery under subarachnoid block were included in the study .They were allotted into four groups A, B,C and D by computer generated randomisation.

- Group A - received 0.5ml Normal Saline with 12.5mg bupivacaine 0.5% (H)
- Group B - received 0.2mg Nalbuphine with 12.5mg bupivacaine 0.5% (H)
- Group C - received 0.4mg Nalbuphine with 12.5mg bupivacaine 0.5% (H)
- Group D - received 0.8mg Nalbuphine with 12.5mg bupivacaine 0.5% (H).

Haemodynamic parameters like heart rate, mean arterial pressure(MAP) & peripheral oxygen saturation were noted throughout the procedure. They compared the onset of sensory and motor blockade and duration of sensory and motor blockade between the groups. They used Bromage scale for motor block and visual analogue scale for assessing pain. The onset time of sensory and motor blockade was significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) reduced and the duration of block was increased in nalbuphine groups. They observed that the analgesic effect of bupivacaine was significantly prolonged when nalbuphine was added as an adjuvant. The authors concluded that 0.4mg Nalbuphine is the most effective intrathecal dose that prolongs post operative analgesia with no side-effects.

Jyothi B, Shruthi Gowda, Safiya Shaikh<sup>[9]</sup> conducted a study in 2014 titled "A comparison of analgesic effect of different doses of intrathecal nalbuphine hydrochloride with bupivacaine and bupivacaine alone for lower abdominal and orthopedic surgeries". Hundred patients of both sexes under American Society of Anaesthesiologists I and II were enrolled in the study. They were randomly allocated into four groups I,II,III,IV. It was a double blind randomized controlled study. Prior to SAB, monitors like ECG, pulse oximetry, non invasive blood pressure (NIBP) were connected and base line values were recorded. Patients were preloaded with 500ml of RL solution. Subarachnoid block was performed using 25G Quincke needle in L3-L4 interspace with 15mg bupivacaine + 0.5ml NS(Group I) or 15mg of bupivacaine with either of nalbuphine 0.8mg, 1.6 and 2.5mg (Group II,III and IV). The time to two segment regression of sensory blockade and the duration of analgesia was significantly prolonged in nalbuphine groups. The postoperative pain scores were drastically reduced in group II to IV than group I ( $3.4\pm 0.4$  vs  $4.08\pm 0.5$ ). The authors concluded addition of 0.8mg nalbuphine to bupivacaine 0.5% intrathecally provides excellent analgesia without any side effects. Nalbuphine exhibits analgesic ceiling effect at 0.8mg dosage, further increase in dose did not rise the analgesic efficacy.



Shehla shakooh, Pooja Bhosle<sup>[10]</sup> performed a study titled "Intrathecal nalbuphine: An effective adjuvant for post operative analgesia". It was a prospective randomised double blind study. After approval by the ethics committee, 60 patients under ASA PS I and II posted for elective lower abdominal and lower limb surgery were included in the study. Patients were divided into two groups by slips in the box technique. Group N received 0.5% heavy bupivacaine (3cc) with 0.8mg nalbuphine. Group B received 0.5% heavy bupivacaine (3cc). Intraoperatively basic monitors were connected and subarachnoid block was performed by 25G Quincke needle in right lateral position. Hemodynamic parameters were observed throughout the procedure. Sensory and motor block were assessed by pinprick and Bromage scale respectively. The authors concluded that the onset of sensory and motor blockade were faster in group N with a significant p value (0.001). The duration of sensory & motor block and the postoperative analgesia duration were superior in group N as compared to group B. No significant side effects were reported between the two groups.

Mostafa Galal, Mohamad F<sup>[11]</sup> et al performed a study in 2011 regarding "Which has greater analgesic effect: Intrathecal Nalbuphine or Intrathecal Tramadol?". Sixty patients posted for Transurethral resection

of the bladder tumor (TURBT) under the ASA physical status I and II were enrolled in the study. They were randomly divided into two groups

- Group T - received 15mg of 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine plus 50mg of tramadol hydrochloride preservative free ( Total volume = 4ml).
- Group N - received 15mg of 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine plus 2mg of nalbuphine hydrochloride preservative free (Total volume = 4ml).

Spinal block was performed with 25G Quincke's needle in L3-L4 space with the patient in right lateral decubitus position. They studied postoperative analgesic requirements, sedation scores, Visual Analog Scale for pain intensity and side effects. The authors concluded that intrathecal tramadol and nalbuphine when used with bupivacaine 0.5% produce similar postoperative analgesia, however sedation scores were higher in tramadol group.

Lin M L<sup>[12]</sup> conducted a study in 1992 regarding "The analgesic effect of subarachnoid administration of tetracaine combined with low dose of morphine or nalbuphine for spinal anaesthesia". Sixty adult patients under the American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) I and II

posted for lower limb surgeries were included in the study. Patients were randomized into two groups using computer generated random numbers. One group received 0.4mg morphine with tetracaine and another group received 0.4mg nalbuphine with tetracaine. Prior to spinal anaesthesia monitors like ECG, pulse oximetry for SPO<sub>2</sub> and non invasive blood pressure were connected. Patients were preloaded with 500ml of Ringer Lactate solution. Spinal block was done with 26gauge Quincke's needle at L3-L4 interspace in sitting posture. Sensory level, motor block, VAS score were recorded serially. They found that addition of nalbuphine or morphine to hyperbaric tetracaine for SAB significantly decreases the onset time of sensory block, prolongs the duration of sensory and motor blockade and the time for first postoperative analgesic requirement. Side effects were less in nalbuphine group than in morphine group.

Ravikiran J Thote, Prashant Lomate, Shilpa Gaikwad<sup>[13]</sup> et al performed a study in 2015 titled " Comparison among intrathecal fentanyl and nalbuphine in combination with bupivacaine and plain bupivacaine for lower limb surgeries". The study design was a prospective randomised controlled double blind study. Sixty patients of both sexes posted for lower limb surgeries under ASA PS I and II were enrolled in the study.

They were segregated into three groups of 20 patients each using computer generated random numbers.

- Group I - received 2.5ml of 0.5% bupivacaine plus 0.5ml of 25mcg of fentanyl.
- Group II - received 2.5ml of 0.5% bupivacaine plus 0.5ml of 500mcg nalbuphine.
- Group III - received 2.5ml of 0.5% bupivacaine plus 0.5ml of normal saline.

Basic monitors of blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen saturation (SPO2) were connected. Intravenous lines started with an 18G cannula and RL infusion was started. SAB was performed with 25G gauge pencil point needle at L3-L4 interspace. The onset of sensory and motor blockade were significantly shorter in fentanyl and nalbuphine group. However the duration of sensory block was increased with nalbuphine-bupivacaine combination than fentanyl bupivacaine combination. Arousable sedation without any respiratory depression was noted with nalbuphine.

Xavier Culebras, Giovanni Gaggero<sup>[14]</sup> et al performed a study in 2000 titled "Advantages of Intrathecal Nalbuphine, Compared with Intrathecal Morphine, After Cesarean Delivery:An Evaluation of Postoperative Analgesia and Adverse Effects". After the approval from ethical committee and getting informed consent, ninety healthy parturients at term for elective cesarean delivery under spinal anaesthesia were included in the study. It was a randomized, prospective double blinded study. Patients received 10mg of 0.5% heavy bupivacaine with either morphine 0.2mg (category A), nalbuphine 0.2mg (category B), nalbuphine 0.8mg (category c), nalbuphine 1.6mg (category D). They found that postoperative analgesia was significantly longer in the morphine category than nalbuphine ( $P < 0.0001$ ). Among the nalbuphine categories, postoperative analgesia was longer with 0.8mg. Adverse effects like pruritus, nausea and vomiting were frequently encountered with morphine when compared to nalbuphine. APGAR scores were similar in all groups. There was no newborn or maternal respiratory depression. The authors had concluded that 0.8mg intrathecal nalbuphine provides good intraoperative analgesia and improves postoperative analgesia without adverse effects.

Fournier R, Van Gessel E, Macksay M, Gamulin Z<sup>[15]</sup> performed a study in 1998 regarding "The onset and offset of intrathecal morphine versus nalbuphine for postoperative pain relief after total hip replacement". The objective of the study was to compare the postoperative analgesia caused by intrathecal morphine and nalbuphine. After the approval from ethical committee, twenty four geriatric patients posted for elective total hip replacement (THR) under continuous spinal anesthesia were randomized into two double blinded groups. Spinal block was performed by 25G quincke needle in L3-L4 space with 3.5ml of 0.5% bupivacaine heavy. In the recovery room, when they experienced pain (VAS > 3), either 160µgram morphine or 400µgram nalbuphine (diluted in 4ml NS) were given intrathecally. Patients were followed up for the next 24 hours after surgery. The authors found that intrathecal nalbuphine produces faster onset of pain relief but shorter duration of analgesia than morphine.

Moustafa AA, Baaror AS, Abdelazim IA<sup>[16]</sup> et al performed a study titled "Comparative study between nalbuphine and ondansetron in prevention of intrathecal morphine -induced pruritus in women undergoing cesarean section". After approval from the Institute Ethical committee and after informed written consent, ninety pregnant women of

ASA physical status II scheduled for cesarean delivery under spinal anaesthesia were recruited for this study. They were divided into three groups. SAB performed in left lateral position at L3-4 interspace using 25G Quincke spinal needle with 2.2ml of 0.5% (H) bupivacaine and 0.2 mg morphine. Immediately after delivery of baby they received one of the following

- Placebo group (P) - received 4ml of normal saline(NS) IV injection.
- Nalbuphine group (N) - received 4ml of 4mg nalbuphine IV.
- Ondansetron group (O) - received 4ml of 4mg ondansetron IV.

Patients were observed for pruritus scores, blood pressure, heart rate and SPO<sub>2</sub> in the post anaesthesia care unit (PACU) for four hours. Both nalbuphine and ondansetron were effective for prevention of intrathecal morphine induced pruritus in parturients undergoing cesarean delivery. However nalbuphine was preferred because it is not excreted in breast milk.

Chatrath V, Attri<sup>[17]</sup> et al conducted a study regarding "The effect of epidural nalbuphine for postoperative analgesia in orthopedic surgery". A double blind prospective randomised study was performed

with eighty adult patients of American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) I and II category posted for elective lower limb orthopedic surgeries under combined spinal epidural anaesthesia. Patients were divided into two categories using computer randomisation method.

- Group A - received epidurally 10ml of 0.25% bupivacaine along with 10mg nalbuphine.
- Group B - received epidurally 10ml of 0.25% bupivacaine along with 100mg tramadol.

Baseline hemodynamic parameters like heart rate, mean arterial blood pressure and oxygen saturation were noted. Subarachnoid block was given with 0.5% of 2.5ml bupivacaine in both the groups. Epidural top up was given at sensory regression to T10. Mean duration of analgesia and mean sedation score were compared between the groups. They concluded that the quality of analgesia and patient satisfaction score were better with nalbuphine epidurally than with tramadol.

Ananda Bangera, Krishna Prasad<sup>[18]</sup> et al conducted a study titled "Nalbuphine as an alternate analgesic to morphine in total abdominal hysterectomy". After approval from Institutional ethics committee (IEC) and obtaining informed consent, fifty patients under the ASA PS I and II



scheduled for total abdominal hysterectomy (TAH) were included in the study. Visual Analog Scale for pain assessment was explained to the patients prior to surgery. Patients were allocated randomly into two groups by closed envelope method. Injection diazepam 0.1mg/kg was given 30 minutes prior to induction of anaesthesia. General anaesthesia was standardised in both the groups. After preoxygenation

- Group N received 0.2mg/kg nalbuphine IV
- Group M received 0.1mg/kg morphine IV

Both groups were induced with propofol 2mg/kg and paralysed with vecuronium bromide 0.1mg/kg, followed by tracheal intubation. Anaesthesia was maintained with O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O/isoflurane. At the end of surgical procedure, patients were reversed with neostigmine 50mcg/kg and glycopyrrolate 10mcg/kg and extubated. Intraoperative hemodynamics and duration of post operative analgesia were noted. Duration of analgesia was significantly more in nalbuphine patients than morphine patients (437±63.87 min vs 255±43.75min). The time to first analgesic requirement was significantly longer with intravenous nalbuphine in addition to better intraoperative hemodynamic stability.

Mohamed Abdelhaq, Mohamed Adly<sup>[19]</sup> conducted a study regarding the "Effect of nalbuphine as adjuvant to bupivacaine for ultrasound-guided supraclavicular brachial plexus block". It was a randomised double blind control study. VAS score was explained to all candidates where 0 corresponds to no pain and 10 is indicative of worst unbearable pain. After obtaining ethical committee approval, 56 patients posted for forearm and hand surgeries in the age group of 18-60 years under the ASA physical status I and II were enrolled in the study. Patients were randomly allocated into two equal study groups.

- Group C - received 25 ml of 0.5% bupivacaine and 1 ml normal saline
- Group N - received 25 ml of 0.5% bupivacaine and 1 ml nalbuphine (20mg ).

On arrival to the operating room, IV line started with an 20G intravenous cannula and Ringer lactate infusion was started. Baseline values of blood pressure, heart rate and haemoglobin oxygen saturation were recorded. The supraclavicular block was performed with the ultrasound system. The authors concluded that addition of nalbuphine to bupivacaine in supraclavicular block is associated with increase in

duration of both sensory and motor block and duration of postoperative analgesia ( $835.18 \pm 42.45$  min vs  $708.14 \pm 54.57$ ).

Maha M.I. Youssef, Nashwa S. EiZayyat<sup>[20]</sup> performed a study in 2014 titled "Lidocaine-nalbuphine Versus lidocaine-tramadol for intravenous regional anesthesia". After approval from local ethics committee and taking informed consent, sixty patients in the age group of 20 - 60 years under the American Society of Anaesthesiologists physical status I and II scheduled for minor hand surgeries were included in the study. The pain score was assessed by 10 point verbal rating scale. By random allocation patients were divided into three equal groups using computer based lists. Group L received 3mg/kg lidocaine 0.5% diluted in 40 ml isotonic saline. Group LT received 3mg/kg lidocaine 0.5% and 100mg tramadol diluted in 40 ml isotonic saline. Group LN received 3mg/kg lidocaine 0.5% and 10mg nalbuphine diluted in 40 ml isotonic saline. In the operating room, patients were monitored by ECG, NIBP and SPO2. Intravenous regional anesthesia was performed by using double pneumatic tourniquet and Esmarch elastic bandage in all patients. The parameters like latency time, duration of sensory and motor block and duration of analgesia were noted. The use of nalbuphine and tramadol as adjuvants accelerate the onset and prolongs the duration of both sensory

and motor block. Nalbuphine seems to be superior to tramadol in prolonging the duration of postop analgesia.

Lefevre B, Freysz M<sup>[21]</sup> et al conducted a study in 1992 titled "Comparison of nalbuphine and fentanyl as intravenous analgesics for medically compromised patients undergoing oral surgery". Twenty four patients of both sexes scheduled for oral surgery under the ASA physical status III or IV were included in the study. They had been double blindly randomized into two groups. Upon arrival to the operating room IV line was started with 18G Quincke needle and RL infusion started. One group received IV analgesia with 0.2mg/kg nalbuphine and another group received IV analgesia with 2mcg/kg fentanyl. Three minutes later local anaesthesia was administered in both the groups. Respiratory rate, oxyhemoglobin saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>), heart rate and arterial blood pressure were recorded before and during surgery. The parameters like quality of analgesia, sedation scores, respiratory depression were noted. The authors concluded that there was no significant differences regarding analgesia and sedation between the two drugs. They also empathised that nalbuphine produce less respiratory depression and it should be a suitable alternative to fentanyl in medically compromised patients undergoing oral surgery.

Hala Mostafa Gomaa, Nashwa nabil Mohamed<sup>[22]</sup> et al conducted a study in 2013 titled "A comparison between post-operative analgesia after intrathecal nalbuphine with bupivacaine and intrathecal fentanyl with bupivacaine after cesarean section". Sixty pregnant females posted for elective LSCS under the ASA physical status II were included in the study. The patients after obtaining informed consent were divided into two groups. Group F received 2ml of 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine plus 0.5ml fentanyl(25µg) intrathecally. Group N received 2ml of 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine plus 0.5ml nalbuphine hydrochloride(0.8mg) intrathecally. The time to reach the T10 sensory segment was not significantly different between the two groups. However, the duration of intraoperative analgesia and early postoperative analgesia was prolonged in group N compared to group F.

Pallavi Ahluwalia, Amit Ahluwalia<sup>[23]</sup> et al conducted a study in 2015 titled "A prospective randomized double-blind study to evaluate the effects of intrathecal nalbuphine in patients of lower abdominal surgeries under spinal anaesthesia". After obtaining informed consent, seventy adult patients of both sexes aged between 18-60 years under ASA PS I and II posted for lower abdominal surgeries were included in the study. They were randomly divided into two groups. Group N received 2.5ml of

0.5% bupivacaine + nalbuphine 0.8mg (made upto 0.5ml) intrathecally. Group C received 2.5ml of 0.5% bupivacaine + normal saline (0.5ml) intrathecally. Prior to spinal anaesthesia monitors like NIBP, pulse oximetry, ECG were connected and the patients were hydrated with RL at 10ml/kg. Intradural puncture was performed at L3-L4 space with 25G Quincke needle in lateral decubitus position. They concluded that the addition of nalbuphine as adjuvant to bupivacaine intrathecally fastens the onset of sensory blockade ( $1.29\pm 0.43\text{min}$  vs  $3.78\pm 1.31\text{min}$ ) and prolongs the duration of sensory and motor blockade. The time to first analgesic requirement was longer in group N as compared to group C ( $298.43\pm 30.92\text{min}$  vs  $201.31\pm 34.31\text{min}$ ).

Priti M Chawda, Mayuresh K Pareek<sup>[24]</sup> et al did a study titled "Effect of nalbuphine on haemodynamic response to orotracheal intubation". After obtaining ethics committee(IEC) approval, sixty patients of both sexes under ASA grade I and II scheduled for laproscopic surgery were included in the study. Patients were divided into two equal groups. All the patients were premedicated with glycopyrrolate  $4\mu\text{g/kg}$  and midazolam 1 mg 10 mins prior to induction of anaesthesia. Patients were monitored for ECG, MAP, SPO2 and capnography. Group I received 5ml normal saline (NS) and Group II received 5ml of 0.2mg/kg

nalbuphine five minutes before induction. Preoxygenation followed by induction with thiopentone 5mg/kg, Scoline 1.5mg/kg and orotracheal intubation was performed within 30 secs. HR and MAP were measured just after intubation and every 1 minute upto 10 mins. Anaesthesia maintained with O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O/sevoflurane. Reversal with 0.02mg/kg atropine and 0.04 mg/kg neostigmine and the patients were extubated. Pressor response were compared between the two groups before and after intubation. They concluded that nalbuphine prevented a marked rise in heart rate(HR) and mean arterial pressure(MAP) associated with laryngoscopy and tracheal intubation.

Chandrakar N, Lalwani J, Sahare KK<sup>[25]</sup> et al conducted a study regarding "The use of patient controlled analgesia using I.V tramadol and I.V nalbuphine for postoperative pain management after major abdominal surgery". The study was a prospective randomised controlled double blind trial. Eighty patients of ASA I and II were selected after approval from ethics committee and obtaining informed consent. 40 patients were allocated in each group. During the preoperative assessment, use of Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) for postoperative pain relief and VAS scale was explained. Injection glycopyrrolate 0.004 mg/kg, midazolam 0.05 mg/kg were given as premedicants. General anesthesia

was standardised in both groups. Pentazocine 0.5 mg/kg, thiopental 5 mg/kg and atracurium 0.5mg/kg were given for tracheal intubation. Anaesthesia was maintained with O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>O/isoflurane. Reversal was done with neostigmine 50mcg/kg and glycopyrrolate 10mcg/kg. PCA was started in the immediate postoperative period.

- Group T - received IV tramadol ( 10 mg bolus dose in concentration of 5mg/ml, lockout interval 10 min)
- Group N - received IV nalbuphine (2 mg bolus dose, lock out interval 10 min)

VAS scale and sedation score were assessed for 24 hours. The authors concluded that Visual Analog Scale was significantly reduced in nalbuphine group compared to tramadol. They also found that nalbuphine provides better hemodynamic stability, good sedation and significantly lower incidence of nausea and vomiting.

RH Saleh, MF Yousef<sup>[26]</sup> et al conducted a study regarding "The effect of nalbuphine as an adjuvant on levobupivacaine induced caudal analgesia in children undergoing surgical procedures". 40 patients aged 1-9 years scheduled for pelvi-abdominal surgeries under ASA PS I and II were included in the study. They were randomly segregated into two



groups. Standard monitors like ECG, NIBP, pulse oximetry were connected. Anaesthesia was induced using sevoflurane 4% (inhalational route), then an IV cannula was inserted and atropine 0.01mg/kg administered. Anaesthesia was maintained with 100% oxygen/isoflurane 2-3% with spontaneous breathing. Then caudal block was performed according to their group.

- Group L - received levobupivacaine 0.25% with the dose of 1ml/kg.
- Group L+N - received levobupivacaine 0.25% with the dose of 1ml/kg and nalbuphine 0.1 mg/kg.

Hemodynamic variables, pain score and sedation score were recorded. The postoperative requirement of fentanyl and time to first analgesic requirement were noted. The authors concluded that caudal nalbuphine is safe in paediatric surgeries and effectively reduces postoperative pain. Nalbuphine may cause early postoperative sedation but without respiratory depression.

***Opioids  
and  
Opioid Receptors***

## OPIOIDS

Opioid is derived from the Greek word *opos* means juice. An opioid is any substance regardless of its origin or structure, which acts on opioid receptors and produces morphine like effects that are blocked by antagonists such as nalaxone. It includes natural, semi synthetic and synthetic agents.

Opiates includes the natural alkaloids like morphine, thebaine and codeine which are derived from the juice of *Papaver somniferum*. Frederick sertuner first isolated crystalline substance from opium and he named as morphine in 1806.



**Papaver somniferum**

## ENDOGENOUS OPIOIDS

Endogenous opioids are found within the brain, which acts through opioid receptor. They are of primarily three classes - enkephalins, endorphins and dynorphins.

## CLASSIFICATION

NATURAL	SEMI SYNTHETIC	SYNTHETIC
Morphine	Heroin	Pethidine
Codeine	Dihydromorphone	Pentazocine
Thebaine	Oxymorphone	Fentanyl
		Buprenorphine
		<b>Nalbuphine etc.,</b>

## USES OF OPIOIDS

- Analgesia ( both intraoperative and postoperative)
- As a premedicant
- As an induction agent
- To blunt intubation response
- Sedation in ICU

- To prevent and control shivering
- As an adjuvant to local anesthetic in intrathecal or epidural space.

## OPIOID RECEPTORS

Opioid receptors are the receptors which primarily mediate the analgesic and other effects of opioid drugs (like morphine) and endogenous opioid peptides. It belongs to the G protein-coupled receptor family. They all inhibit adenylate cyclase<sup>[27]</sup> and reduce cellular cyclic adenosine monophosphate content. Opioid receptors are present in brain, spinal cord and gastrointestinal tract.

In the brain, opioid receptors are expressed in amygdala, mesencephalic reticular formation, periaqueductal gray matter, lamina I & IV of thalamus, mid brain and rostral ventral medulla.

## SUB TYPES OF OPIOID RECEPTORS

Opioid receptors<sup>[28]</sup> are subdivided into three subtypes. They are mu( $\mu$ ), kappa( $\kappa$ ), delta( $\delta$ ).

- **mu( $\mu$ ) receptors** - gene on chromosome 6. They are again subdivided into  $\mu_1$ ,  $\mu_2$ ,  $\mu_3$ .

$\mu_1$	$\mu_2$	$\mu_3$
- analgesia	-respiratory depression	- Vasodilation
-Physical dependence	- miosis,	-Increase GH and prolactin
	-constipation	
	- euphoria	

- **kappa( $\kappa$ ) receptors** - gene on chromosome 8. They are again subdivided into  $\kappa_1$ ,  $\kappa_2$ ,  $\kappa_3$ . They mediate analgesia, dysphoria, miosis, sedation, diuresis.
- **delta( $\delta$ ) receptors** - gene on chromosome 1 and 4. They mediate analgesia, respiratory depression, dependence.

### Newer opioid receptors

- Nociceptin receptor
- Zeta receptor.

Based on receptor interaction opioids are classified into pure agonist(+), mixed agonist/antagonist(+/-) and pure antagonist(-).

<b>Pure agonist(+)</b>	<b>Mixed agonist/ antagonist(+/-)</b>	<b>Pure antagonist(-)</b>
morphine,	pentazocine,	naloxone,
fentanyl,	<b>nalbuphine,</b>	naltrexone,
alfentanil,	nalorphine,	nalmefene.
pethidine ,	buprenorphine,	
remifentanil,	butorphanol,	
sufentanil.	dezocine, etc.,	

## **MECHANISM OF ACTION OF OPIOIDS**

Opioids produce analgesia through spinal, supraspinal and peripheral mechanisms.

### **Supraspinal**

It activates pain control circuits (corticospinal tract), which descend from midbrain via rostral ventromedial medulla to the spinal cord, thereby blocking nociceptive stimuli.

## Spinal

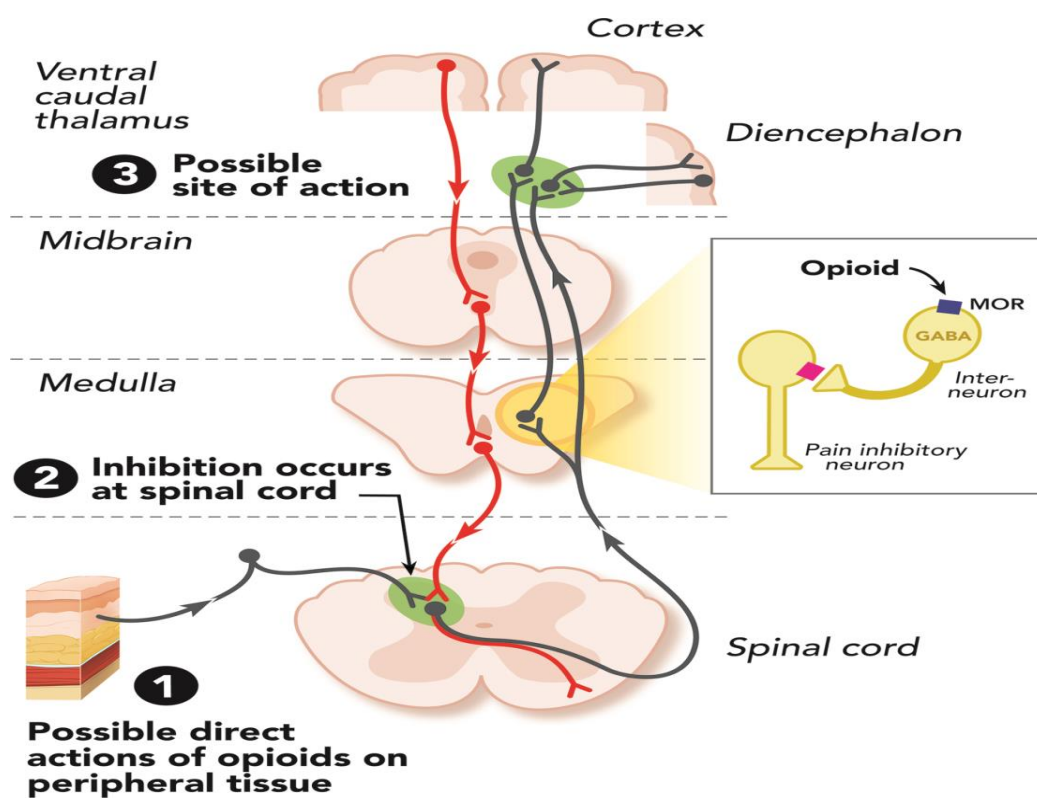
They act in substantia gelatinosa of dorsal horn cells, where they inhibit substance P release and directly inhibit the ascending transmission of nociceptive stimuli.

## Peripheral mechanisms

Stimulates G protein synthesis and increase cAMP which causes

Increased  $K^+$  - Hyperpolarization of membrane

Decreased  $Ca^{2+}$  - ↓Excitability





***Pharmacology  
Of  
Nalbuphine***

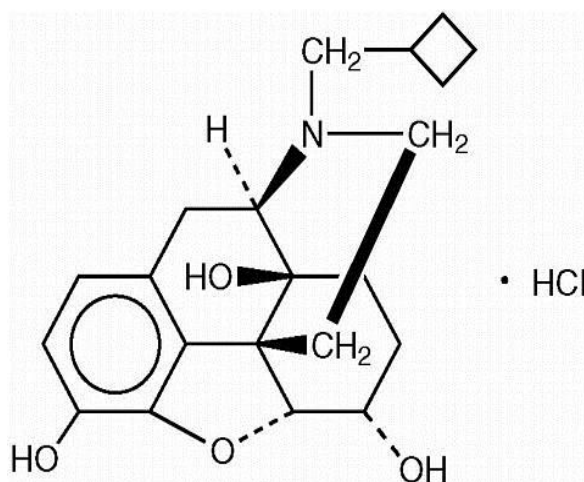
## PHARMACOLOGY OF NALBUPHINE

Narcotic analgesics are associated with significant abuse potential. To overcome the abuse potential, various synthetic opioids were developed. Those substances are referred to as mixed agonist-antagonist analgesics. Nalbuphine is one among them.

### CHEMISTRY

Nalbuphine hydrochloride, a synthetic narcotic agonist-antagonist analgesic of the phenanthrene series. Chemically, it is related to the opioid antagonist naloxone and opioid agonist oxymorphone. Nalbuphine is soluble in water at 25°C, ethanol 0.8% and available only as an injectable solution.

### CHEMICAL STRUCTURE



## **CHEMICAL NAME**

17-(cyclobutylmethyl)-4,5-epoxy-,morphinan-3,6,14-triol,  
hydrochloride

## **RECEPTOR INTERACTION**

Nalbuphine binds to mu( $\mu$ ), kappa( $\kappa$ ), and delta( $\delta$ ) receptors, but not to sigma receptors. Nalbuphine is primarily a  $\kappa$  agonist/ $\mu$  antagonist analgesic. Nalbuphine has an analgesic potency<sup>[29]</sup> similar to that of morphine on a milligram for milligram basis. The narcotic antagonist activity of nalbuphine is one-fourth(1/4<sup>th</sup>) as potent as that of nalorphine and ten times that of pentazocine. When administered subsequent or concurrent with  $\mu$  agonist opioid analgesics (e.g., morphine, fentanyl), nalbuphine may partially reverse or block opioid-induced respiratory depression from the  $\mu$  agonist analgesic.

## **MECHANISM OF ACTION**

By its agonist action, nalbuphine stimulates  $\kappa$  receptors thereby inhibiting the release of neurotransmitters like substance P that mediate pain. It acts as a post-synaptic inhibitor on the "inter neurons & output

neurons" of the Spino-thalamic tract which transport nociceptive information.

## PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Molecular formula	-	$C_{21}H_{27}NO_4.HCl$
Molecular Mass	-	393.91 g/mol
pKa	-	8.71

## PHARMACOKINETICS

Nalbuphine is inactive orally and intravenous route is the conventional route of administration. It can also be administered by intramuscular, subcutaneous, neuraxial routes.

Bio-availability is around 80%.

Volume of distribution is 3.8litres/kg.

Onset of action { intravenous administration is within 2-3 mins  
Subcutaneous, intramuscular < 15 mins

Plasma half life - 5 hrs

Duration of analgesia - 3 to 6 hours

Nalbuphine is primarily metabolised in the liver and the metabolites are excreted via kidney. Hence the dosage of nalbuphine must be decreased in patients with hepatic and renal failure.

### **USES OF NALBUPHINE**

- As an adjuvant to general anesthesia
- As an adjuvant to neuraxial anesthesia
- Obstetric analgesia during labor and delivery
- As an adjuvant to peripheral nerve blocks.
- In the management of postoperative pain.

### **OFF LABEL USES**

- Opioid induced pruritus.
- Opioid induced respiratory depression<sup>[30]</sup>
- Post anesthesia shivering
- Sickle cell anemia with crisis

### **PREPARATIONS AND STORAGE**

- Available as 10mg, 20mg solutions in 1ml ampoule.
- Should be stored at room temperature (15°C to 30°C).
- Protect from excessive light.

## Inj. Nalbuphine Ampoule



### ADVERSE EFFECTS

The most common side effects of nalbuphine are sedation, sweating, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, vertigo, dry mouth, headache. Other effects are bradycardia, hypotension, urinary urgency. Because of the ceiling effect,<sup>[31]</sup> nalbuphine causes less respiratory depression compared to other opioids. It is classified as category 'B' (animal studies have failed to demonstrate fetal risk and there are no controlled studies in pregnant women) drug in pregnancy. It should be avoided in patients who are hypersensitive to the drug or its components.

***Pharmacology  
Of  
Bupivacaine***

## PHARMACOLOGY OF BUPIVACAINE

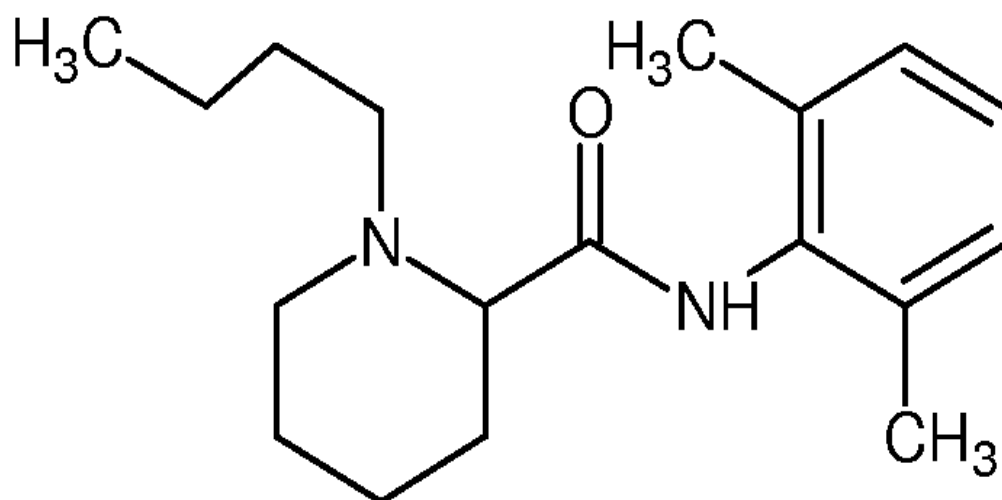
Bupivacaine belongs to amide group of local anaesthetics. This long acting local anaesthetic was first synthesized by A.F. Ekenstam in 1957.

Commercial bupivacaine is a racemic mixture of R(dextro) and S(levo) stereoisomers. It is 4 times more potent than Xylocaine. It is available as hydrochloride salt for anaesthesia.

### CHEMICAL NAME

(2S)-1-Butyl-N-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-piperidinecarboxamide

### CHEMICAL STRUCTURE



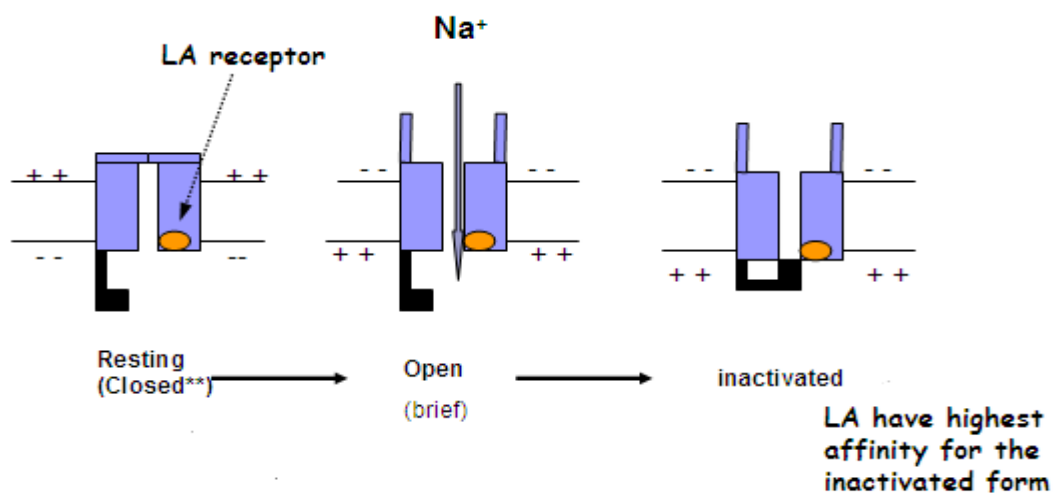


## PHYSIO- CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Molecular Formula	-	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O
Molecular Weight	-	290 gm/mol
Plasma protein binding	-	95%
Lipid solubility	-	28 mg/L
Solubility in water	-	1 in 25
Solubility in alcohol	-	1 in 8

## MECHANISM OF ACTION

All local anaesthetics causes blockade of voltage gated sodium channels, resulting in decreased entry of sodium ions into the cells thereby preventing depolarization. Hence the nerve signals and action potential cannot be propagated.



## **PHARMACOKINETICS**

After administration it is rapidly absorbed from the injection site. The route of administration determines the rate of rise of plasma concentration as well as the peak plasma concentration. Steady state volume of distribution is about 70 litres and the clearance is approximately 0.48L/min.

## **UPTAKE OF BUPIVACAINE IN SPINAL CORD**

First method - simple diffusion from the CSF into the piamater and subsequently into the spinal cord.

Second method - by extension into the Virchow-Robin spaces (layers of piamater).

## **METABOLISM**

Bupivacaine is metabolised by one of the following pathways

- aromatic hydroxylation
- amide hydrolysis
- N-methyl dealkylation
- conjugation

Metabolites are primarily excreted in the liver, 5-10% of the drug is excreted unchanged in urine.

Onset of action (spinal) - 5 to 10 mins.

Duration of spinal block - 90 to 120 mins.

### **USES**

- Central neural blockade (spinal & epidural anaesthesia)
- Peripheral nerve blocks
- Infiltration anaesthesia

### **COMMERCIAL PREPARATIONS**

- It is available in 4ml ampoules for intrathecal injection - 5mg/ml of 0.5% bupivacaine and 80mg of dextrose.
- As 10 and 20ml vials with the concentration of 0.25%, 0.5% solutions.

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS**

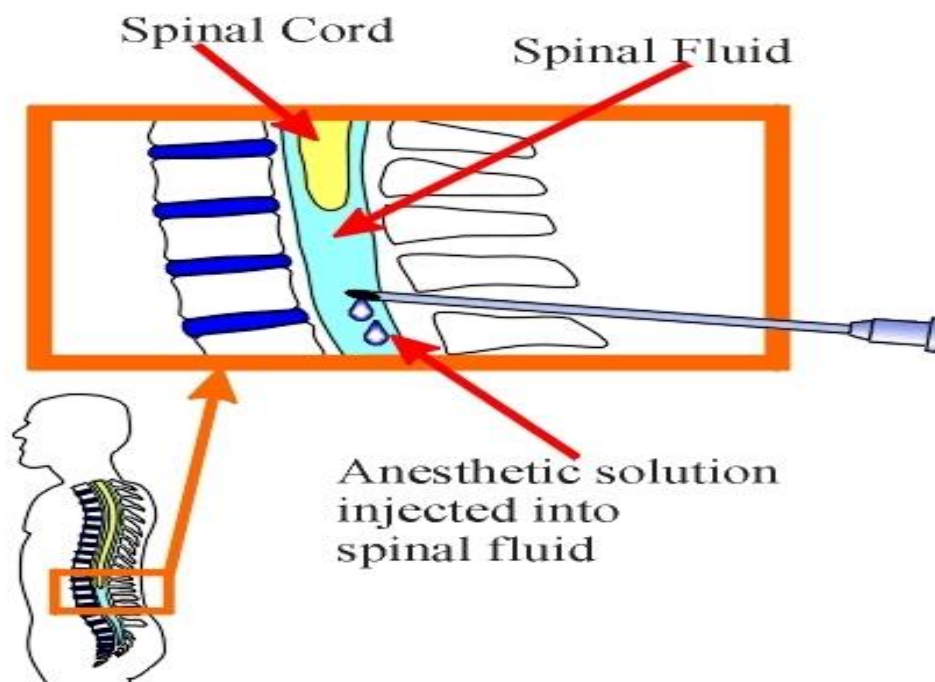
- Hypersensitivity to local anaesthetics
- Intravenous regional anaesthesia (Bier's block)
- Paracervical block

***Subarachnoid  
Block***

## ANATOMY OF SUBARACHNOID BLOCK

Spinal anaesthesia was introduced by AUGUST BIER in 1898. It involves single injection of a local anesthetic solution into the subarachnoid space usually at the lumbar level (commonly at L3 – L4). Principal site of action for central neuraxial blockade is the nerve root. SAB produces

- Sympathetic blockade
- Sensory blockade
- Motor blockade

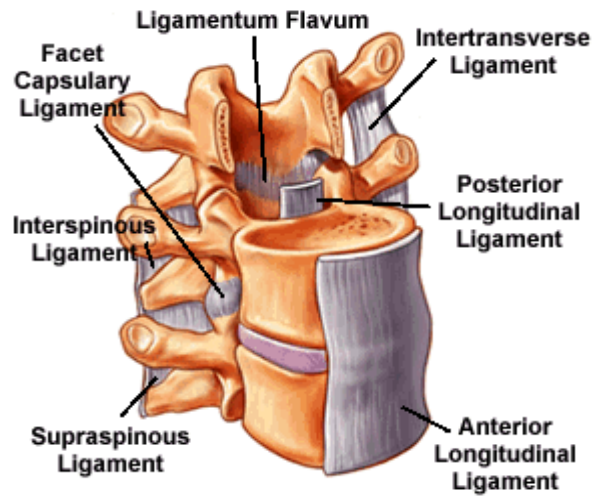


**Site of Injection of Drug**

The spinal cord extends from foramen magnum (base of the skull) to lower border of L1 in adults, hence spinal puncture below L1 is advised to prevent trauma to the cord. In children the cord extends upto L3 and adult level is achieved by 2 years.

### **VERTEBRAL LIGAMENTS**

Supraspinous ligament	Connects the tip of each spinous process to the other.
Interspinous ligament	Connects the vertebral spines
Ligamentum flavum ("yellow ligament")	Connects the lamina above and below
Anterior Longitudinal Ligament	Connects the front (anterior) of the vertebral body to the front of the annulus fibrosus.
Posterior Longitudinal Ligament	Connects the back (posterior) of the vertebral body to the back of the annulus fibrosus.



### Vertebral Ligaments

## DERMATOLOGICAL SEGMENT LEVELS

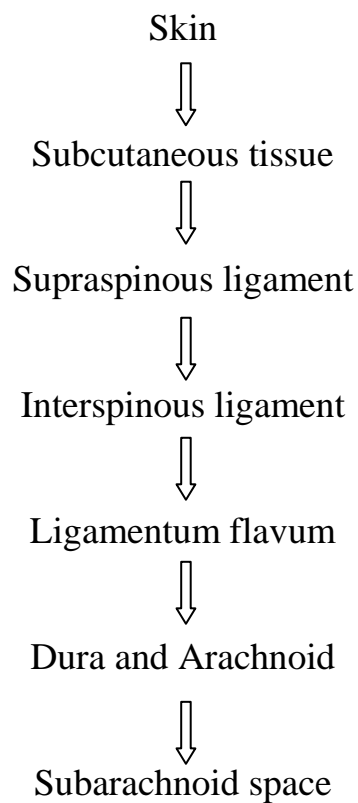
Touffier's line - Line drawn between the highest points of both iliac crests. It usually corresponds to L4 spine or L4-L5 interspace

C7	Spinous process of 7th cervical vertebrae. It is prominent and easily palpable.
T4	Nipple
T6	Xiphisternum
T7	Inferior angle of scapula
T10	Umblicus
L1	Inguinal ligament
S1 to S4	Perineum

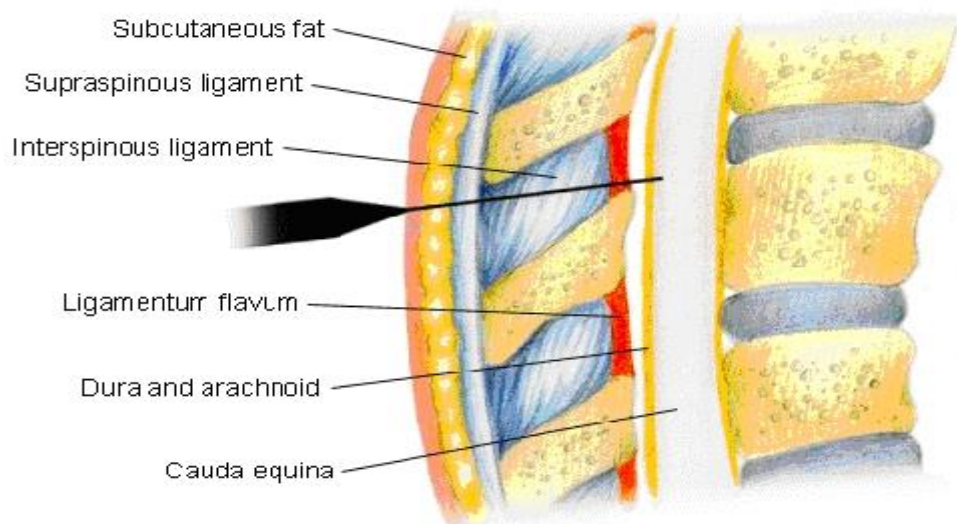
## BLOCK REQUIREMENTS

Surgery	Level required
Cesarean section, Gynecologic, Intestinal surgery	T6
Transurethral resection of prostate(TURP), Transurethral resection of bladder tumor(TURBT)	T10
Knee surgery	L1
Foot and ankle surgery	L2
Perineal and anal surgery	S2-S4

## STRUCTURES PIERCED BY SPINAL NEEDLE







### **Structures encountered during spinal anaesthesia**

#### **ADVANTAGES OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA**

- Patient is alert during surgery
- Lower incidence of Nausea/Vomiting/sore throat
- Better Pain Control
- Economical
- Sympathectomy → vasodilation → ↑↑ blood flow to legs →  
↓ incidence of DVT

#### **INDICATIONS**

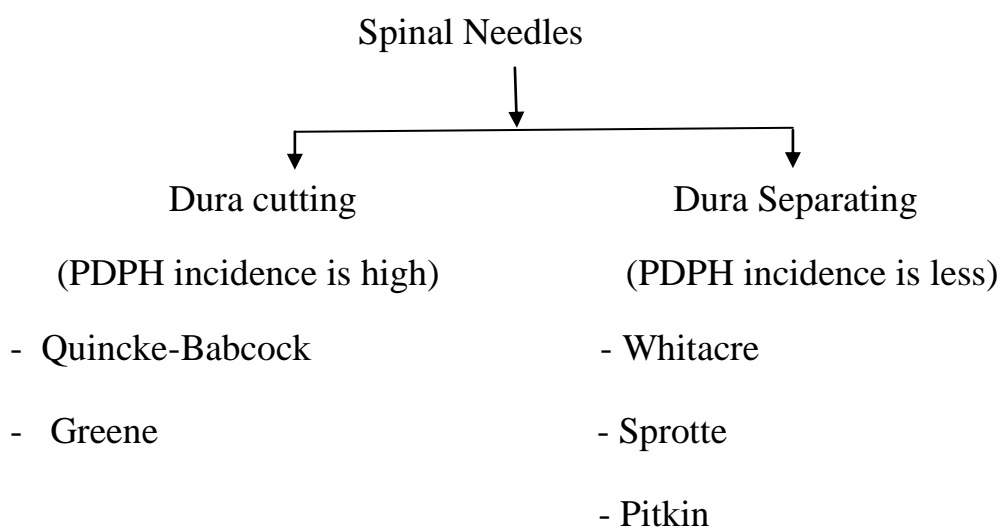
- General surgery - lower abdominal, urogenital, Inguinal & rectal surgery

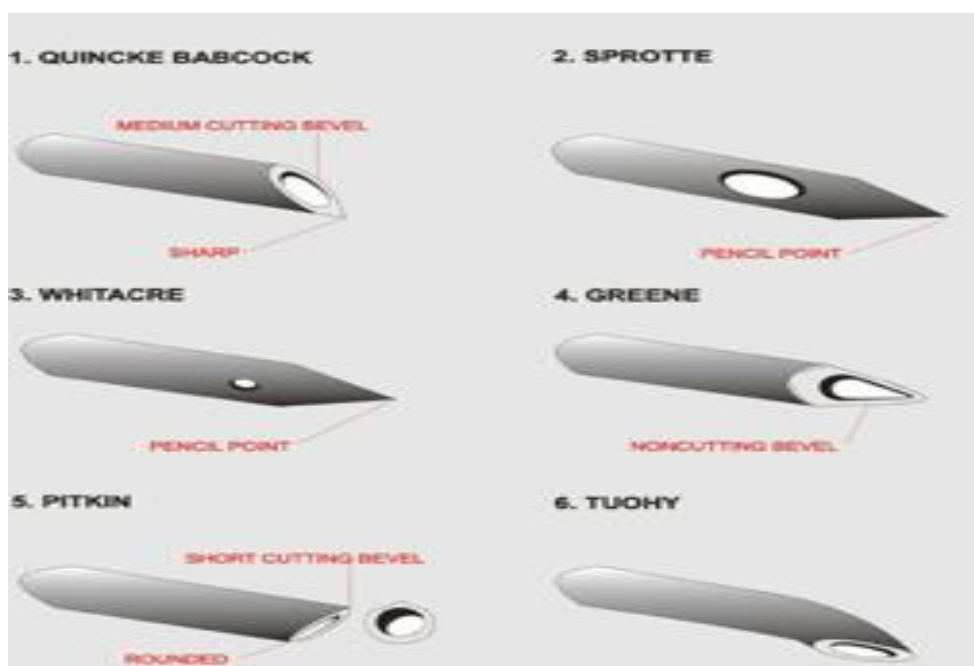
- Orthopaedic surgery- all lower limb surgeries, few pelvic surgeries
- Urologic surgery - Bladder, Prostrate and ureteric surgery
- Gynaecologic and obstetrics surgery - Lower segment cesarean section, Hysterectomy, Dilatation & Curettage.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Refusal by the patient
- Overt coagulopathy
- Increased intracranial tension
- Infection at injection site
- Shock, severe hypovolemia
- Fixed cardiac output lesions like mitral stenosis, aortic stenosis, complete heart block.

## TECHNIQUES





## Spinal needles

Spinal needles are available in sizes ranging from 16 - 30 gauge.

### POSITIONING

Proper positioning is important for technical ease and successful block. The various positions are

1. Lateral decubitus
2. Sitting
3. Prone (using hypobaric drug)



### **Sitting posture**

## **APPROACH**

The different approaches are

### **1. Midline approach**

Needle is introduced in the midline and directed slightly cephalad. Two pop ups are felt, one is supraspinous ligament and the other is ligamentum flavum. The needle is advanced to penetrate the dura and then subarachnoid membrane as signalled by free flowing CSF. The best sign of correct lumbar puncture is free flowing CSF.

## 2. Lateral or Paramedian approach

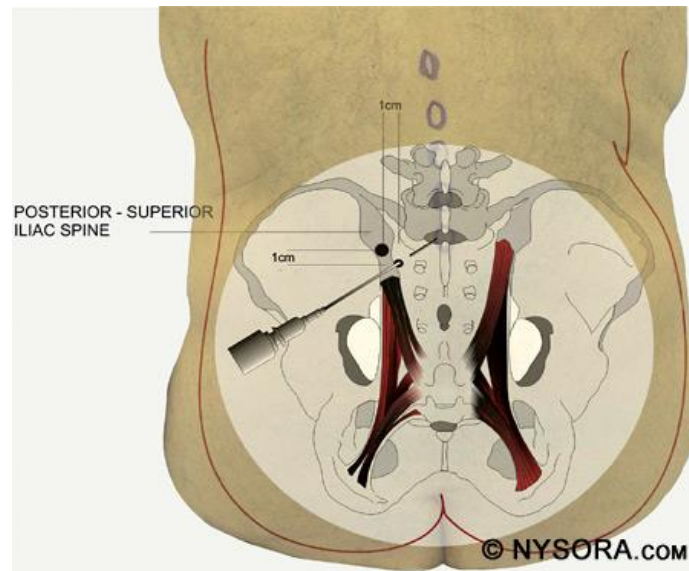
Indicated in patients with positioning difficulty (Kyphoscoliosis, Sclerotic lesions). The needle is inserted 1cm lateral and 1cm caudal to the inferior aspect of spinal process. Here the first resistance felt is ligamentum flavum.



### Lateral approach

## 3. Taylor's approach

It is a type of paramedian technique in which the needle is directed towards L5-S1 space. Point of insertion is 1cm medial and 1cm inferior to posterior superior iliac spine. Used in conditions of lumbar spine deformity.



### Taylor's approach

#### DRUGS USED

Drug	Doses	Duration
Lignocaine 5%	1-2ml	1-1.5 hr
Bupivacaine 0.5%	2-4ml	2-4 hr
Ropivacaine 0.75%	2-4ml	2-4 hr
Levobupivacaine 0.5%	2-4ml	2-3 hr

#### BARICITY OF THE SOLUTION

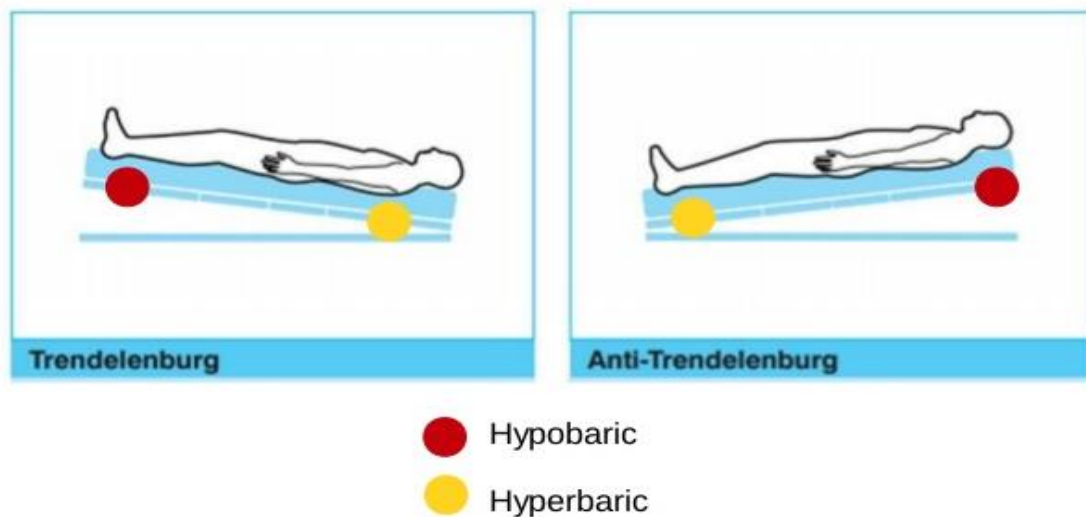
Baricity refers to the specific gravity of the local anesthetic solution in relation to CSF. It determines the spread of local anesthetic in the subarachnoid space. The specific gravity of CSF is 1.0069.

## HYPERBARIC SOLUTIONS

Density of local anesthetic is greater than density of CSF. So the deposited drug flows to dependent sites. The position of the patient determines the height of block while using hyperbaric & hypobaric solution.

## HYPOBARIC SOLUTIONS

Density of local anesthetic is less than density of CSF. So the deposited drug flows from dependent sites.



### Body Position and Baricity Interaction

## **ISOBARIC SOLUTIONS**

Density of local anesthetic is approximately equal to density of CSF. So the deposited drug stays there itself. The position of the patient has no effect.

## **FACTORS AFFECTING HEIGHT OF BLOCK**

### **Modifiable factors**

- Dose of the drug(volume & Concentration)
- Site of injection
- Posture of patient
- Baricity of LA

### **Non-modifiable factors**

- Volume of Cerebro Spinal Fluid.
- Density of Cerebro Spinal Fluid.

## **FACTORS AFFECTING DURATION OF BLOCK**

- Dose of the drug (volume & Concentration)
- Pharmacological profile of the drug like protein binding, lipid solubility.



- Type of the drug (Bupivacaine > lignocaine)
- Added opioids.

### **ORDER OF BLOCKING NERVE FIBER**

1. Preganglionic sympathetic B fibers
2. Temperature (Cold > Warm)
3. Pinprick
4. Pain
5. Touch
6. Pressure
7. Proprioception
8. Somatic motor fibers.

Sequence of block is autonomic first, followed by sensory and then motor fibres.

### **COMPLICATIONS**

- Cardiovascular disturbances like hypotension, bradycardia
- High spinal block

- Local anesthetic induced neurotoxicity & neurological damage
- Postdural puncture headache
- Backache
- Transient neurological symptoms (lignocaine)
- Others- Meningitis, Arachnoiditis, Cauda equina syndrome, Hematoma formation.

***Materials  
and  
Methods***

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

"Prospective randomized controlled study evaluating anaesthetic efficacy of mixture of intrathecal bupivacaine 0.5% heavy and nalbuphine hydrochloride with intrathecal bupivacaine 0.5% heavy alone for infra umbilical surgeries".

The study was duly submitted before the Institutional Ethical Committee and approval was obtained before the commencement of the study.

### **STUDY DESIGN**

It was a Prospective Randomized controlled study.

### **SAMPLE SIZE CALCULATION**

The study population comprised of 60 adult patients classified under the ASA PS 1 or 2 posted for lower abdominal surgery and lower limb orthopaedic surgery.

### **INCLUSION CRITERIA**

- 30 - 60 years of age
- ASA physical status 1 or 2

- Patients who gave valid informed written consent
- Patients undergoing lower abdominal surgery and lower limb orthopaedic surgery.

### **EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

- Lack of valid informed written consent
- Infection at the subarachnoid block injection site
- Patients with neurological and musculoskeletal disease
- Patients with bleeding disorders
- Patients on anticoagulants
- Pregnancy
- History of allergy to local anaesthetic

### **STUDY CENTRE & STUDY PERIOD**

ESIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & PGIMSR, KK NAGAR,  
CHENNAI from September 2015 to June 2016.

### **PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT**

All the patients were duly examined on the day prior to surgery and pre-operative assessment sheet was checked. The height, weight, body

mass index of the patient were measured. The airway assessment, spine examination and the nutritional status of the patient were evaluated.

A detailed general and systemic examination was done. Pre-operative investigations like complete haemogram, renal function tests, random blood sugar, blood grouping and typing, electrocardiography and chest X ray were evaluated properly.

### **INFORMED WRITTEN CONSENT**

All the patients were informed about the nature of the study and a valid informed written consent was obtained.

### **PREMEDICATION**

All the patients were fasted overnight and they were pre-medicated with tablet ranitidine 150mg, tablet metoclopramide 10mg, tablet alprazolam 0.5mg on the night before surgery.

### **PREPARATION**

Upon arrival to the operating room, standard monitors like non invasive blood pressure(NIBP), Electrocardiography(ECG) and pulse oximetry were connected and baseline values were recorded. An

intravenous line was secured with 18G cannula and patients were preloaded with 10ml/kg of Ringer Lactate (RL) solution. Patients were randomly divided into either of the two groups- Group A or Group B by slips in the box technique.

## **MATERIALS:**

### **DRUGS**

- Nalbuphine Hcl - Inj
- 0.5% bupivacaine heavy - Inj
- Normal saline
- Emergency drugs

### **EQUIPMENTS**

- 25 G Quincke needle
- Sponge holding forceps
- Sterile 5ml & 10ml syringe
- Sterile drape
- Sterile gauze pieces.

**TECHNIQUE:**

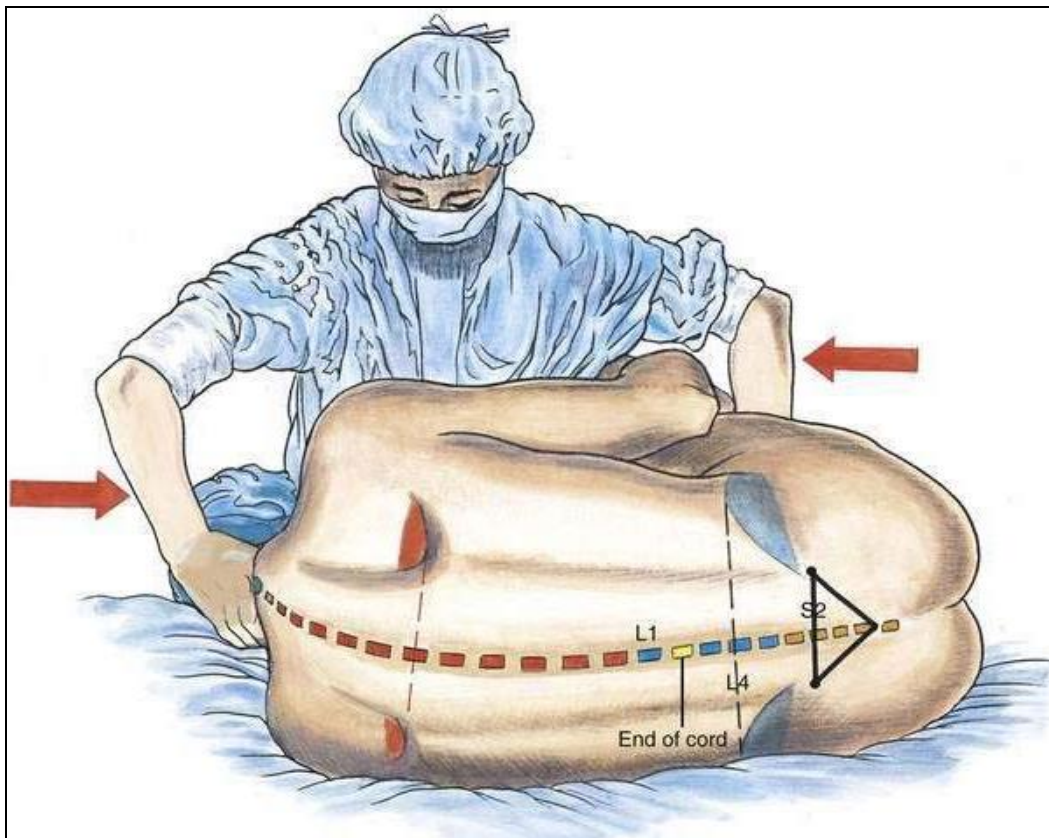
The patient was placed in the right lateral decubitus position. Under strict aseptic precautions, lumbar puncture was performed at L3-L4 intervertebral space with 25 G quincke needle using the median approach. After free flow of clear cerebrospinal fluid(CSF), drug was injected at 0.2ml/sec.

**Group A** received 15mg (3 ml) of 0.5% bupivacaine (H) and nalbuphine 0.5 mg (0.5ml) - Total volume 3.5 ml.

**Group B** received 15mg (3 ml) of 0.5% bupivacaine (H) and normal saline 0.5 ml (0.5ml)- Total volume 3.5ml.

Oxygen at 4l/min was administered through face mask. Hemodynamic parameters like peripheral oxygen saturation, non invasive blood pressure, pulse rate were recorded at regular intervals intraoperatively and postoperatively up to 24 hours.





### Position for Subarachnoid Block

#### MONITORING

- Hypotension - Systolic blood pressure less than 90mm Hg or less than 20% from baseline. Treatment given- Inj. Mephentermine 6mg IV bolus.
- Bradycardia - Heart rate less than 50 beats/min. Treatment given - Inj. Atropine 0.6 mg.

## **BLOCK EVALUATION**

### **SENSORY BLOCK**

Sensory block was assessed by pinprick method in the mid-clavicular line using 27G needle, every minute until the block reached T6 dermatome. After that, level was checked every 2 mins until maximal sensory block was attained.

### **GRADES OF SENSORY BLOCKADE**

GRADE 0	-	Sharp pain felt
GRADE 1	-	Analgesia, dull sensation felt
GRADE 2	-	Anesthesia, no sensation felt

Onset of sensory blockade was defined as the time interval between the end of anesthetic injection to loss of sensation to pinprick at T10 level.

### **MOTOR BLOCKADE**

Quality of motor block was assessed by modified Bromage scale.

- GRADE 0 - no motor blockade, able to lift the leg at the hip.

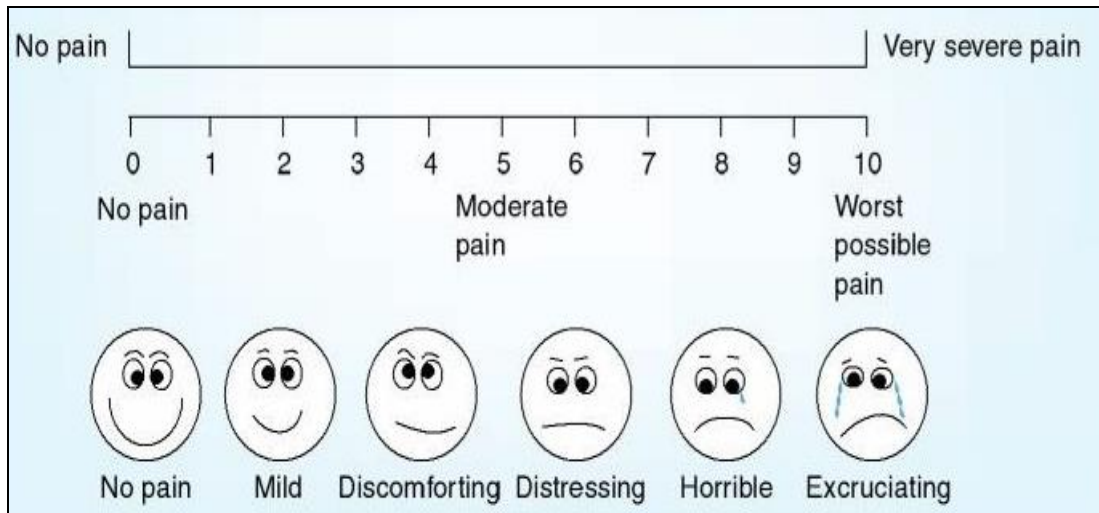
- GRADE 1 - Able to flex the knee and ankle but not able to lift the leg at the hip (hip blocked)
- GRADE 2 - Able to move the foot only (hip and knee blocked)
- GRADE 3 - Unable to move even the foot (hip, knee and ankle blocked).

Onset of complete motor blockade was defined as the time interval between the completion of study drug injection until Bromage 3 registered.

Surgery was started when complete anaesthesia was attained. After the completion of the surgery, both sensory and motor level were noted. Two segment regression time from the maximal level and regression to level L1 was also noted. Postoperatively, patients were regularly followed up in the recovery and postoperative ward for pain score using VAS scale.

## **VISUAL ANALOG SCALE**

Preoperatively patients were explained in detail about Visual Analog Scale. The scores were evaluated in the postoperative ward and rescue analgesia was given at a VAS score of 4 or more.



### 0-10 VAS Numeric Pain Distress Scale

SCORE 0-2	NO PAIN
SCORE 2-4	MILD PAIN
SCORE 4-6	MODERATE PAIN
SCORE 6-8	SEVERE PAIN
SCORE 8-10	UNBEARABLE PAIN

## PATIENT FLOW CHART

ASSESSMENT CLINIC: ASA I and ASA II (30 - 60 years of either sex) posted for Infra umbilical surgeries



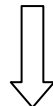
Informed written consent obtained



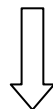
Patient shifted to operation theatre



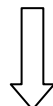
WHO checklist followed



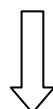
Groups allocated by slips in the Box technique



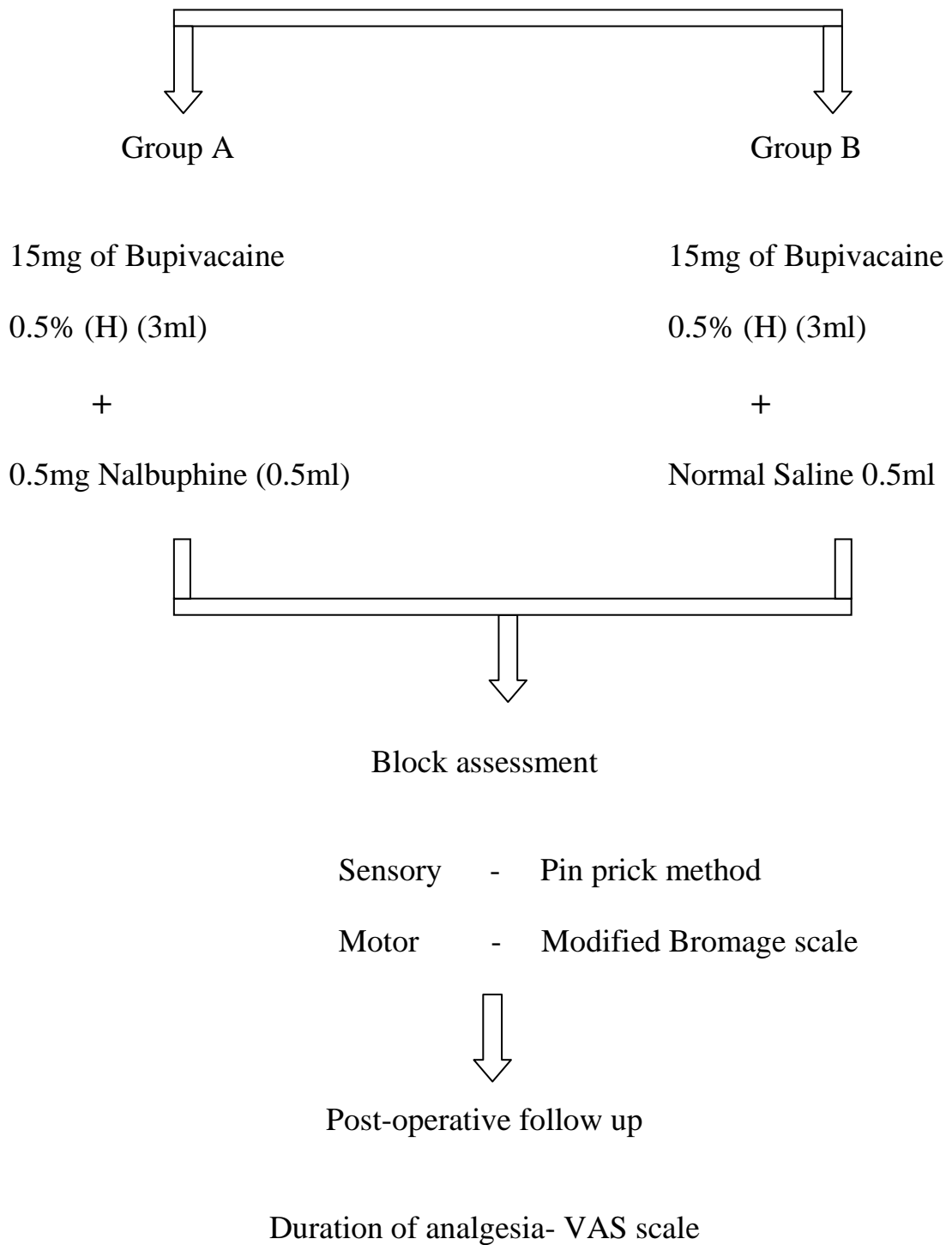
ECG, Pulse oximetry, NIBP monitors connected



IV access secured and preloaded with RL 10ml/kg



Subarachnoid block performed using 25G Quincke needle



***Statistics  
and  
Results***

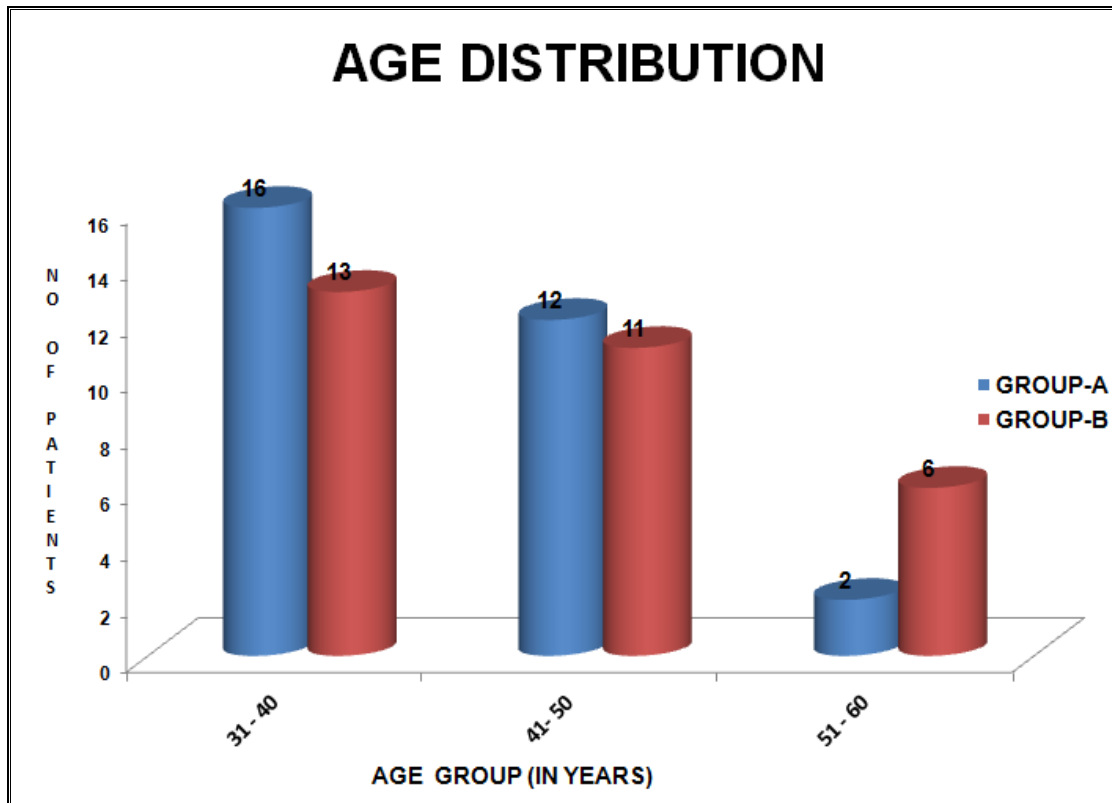
## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

Sample size was calculated using n.master 2.0 software. Sample size based on clinical trials-parallel design-hypothesis equivalence/bioequivalence. Equivalence margin is 1, observed / expected difference - 0.68, Standard deviation - 0.5, Effect size - 0.64, Power (1- $\beta$ ) - 80,  $\alpha$  Error (%) - 5, Group A-30, Group B - 30. For Statistical analysis IBM SPSS (Version 21) software was used. The demographic data of the patients in both the groups were studied and the analysis revealed no significant difference between the two groups.

**Table-1: AGE DISTRIBUTION**

Age (Years)	GROUP-A		GROUP-B	
	No of Patients (N)	Percentage (%)	No of Patients (N)	Percentage (%)
<b>31 - 40</b>	16	53.33	13	43.33
<b>41 - 50</b>	12	40.00	11	36.67
<b>51 - 60</b>	2	6.67	6	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100
<b>Chi-square Value</b>	2.35			
<b>p-value</b>	0.31			
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>			





GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

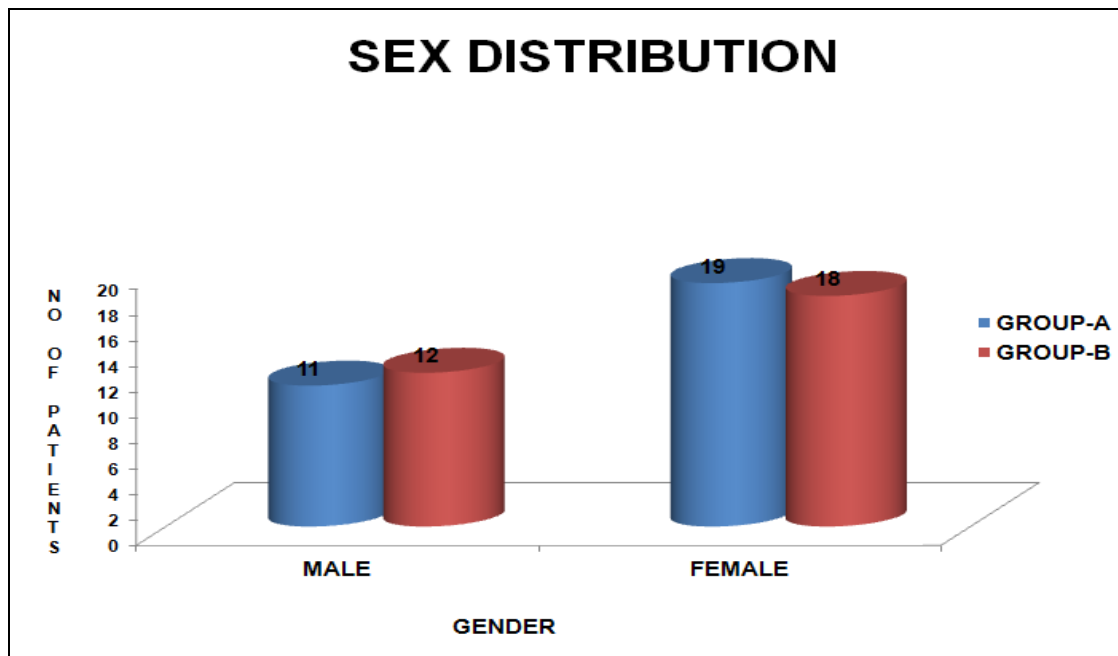
Both the groups are identical in distribution in terms of age.

#### Mean Age (in Years)

Group	Mean	Standard Deviation
<b>GROUP-A</b>	39.90	7.60
<b>GROUP-B</b>	42.57	8.40
<b>t-value</b>	1.29	
<b>p-value</b>	0.20	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>	

**Table-2: SEX DISTRIBUTION**

SEX	GROUP-A		GROUP-B		TOTAL	
	No of Patients (N)	%	No of Patients (N)	%	No of Patients (N)	%
MALE	11	36.67	12	40.00	23	38.33
FEMALE	19	63.33	18	60.00	37	61.67
TOTAL	30	100	30	100	60	100
Chi-square value	0.07					
p-value	0.79					
Significant	Not Significant					



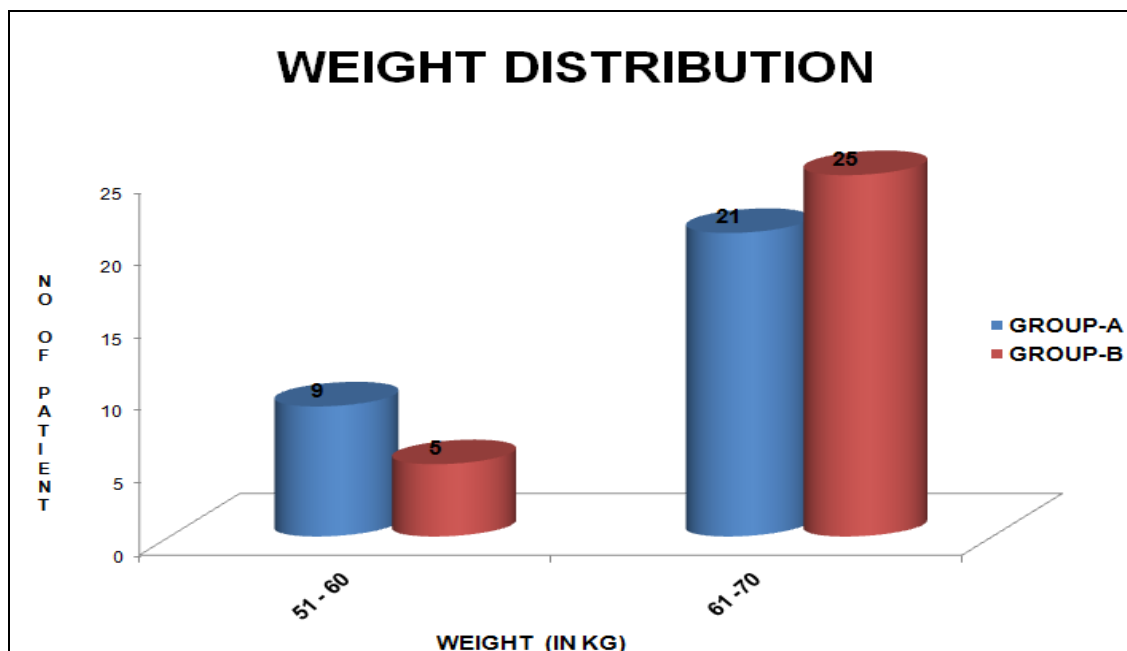
GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

No statistically significant difference in sex distribution between two groups.

**Table-3:WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION**

Weight in kgs	GROUP-A		GROUP-B	
	No of Patients (N)	%	No of Patients (N)	%
<b>51 – 60</b>	9	30.00	5	16.67
<b>61 -70</b>	21	70.00	25	83.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100
<b>Chi-square Value</b>	1.49			
<b>p-value</b>	0.22			
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>			



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

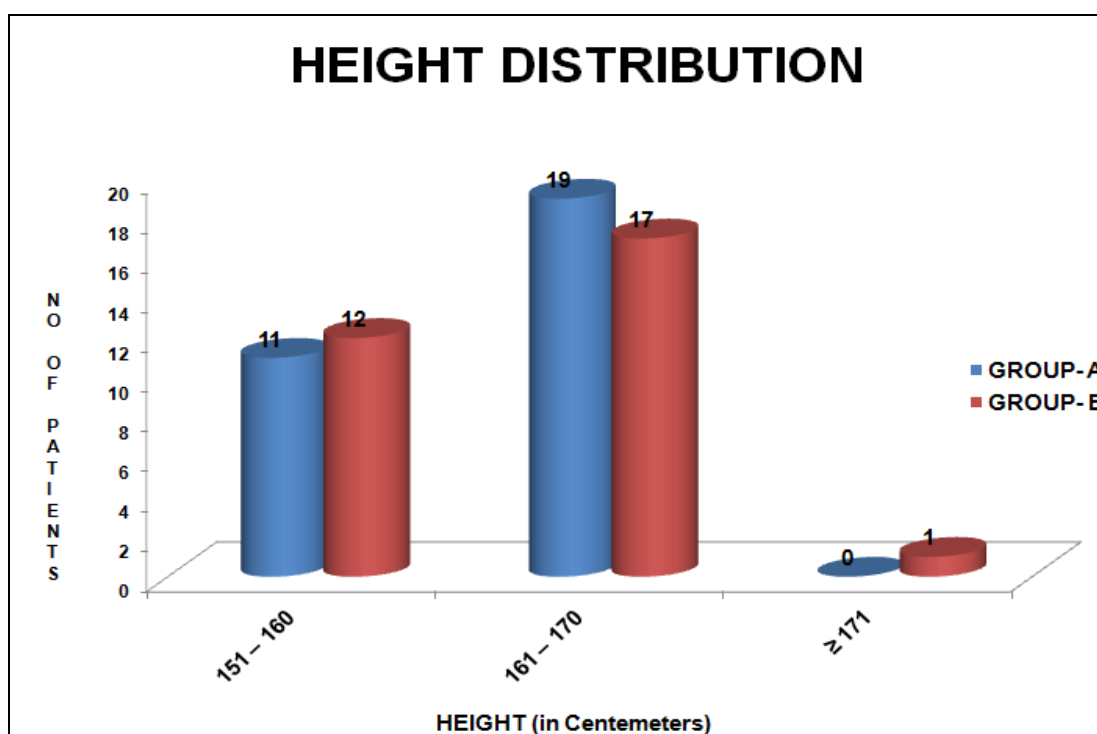
**Mean Weight (Kg)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>GROUP-A</b>	63.13	5.20
<b>GROUP-B</b>	64.67	4.27
<b>t-value</b>	1.25	
<b>p-value</b>	0.22	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>	

The mean weight distribution between the two groups are similar.

**Table-4 : HEIGHT DISTRIBUTION**

Height in cms	GROUP- A		GROUP- B	
	No of Patients (N)	%	No of Patients (N)	%
151 – 160	11	36.67	12	40.00
161 – 170	19	63.33	17	56.67
171 –180	0	0	1	3.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100
<b>Chi-square Value</b>	1.16			
<b>p-value</b>	0.56			
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>			



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

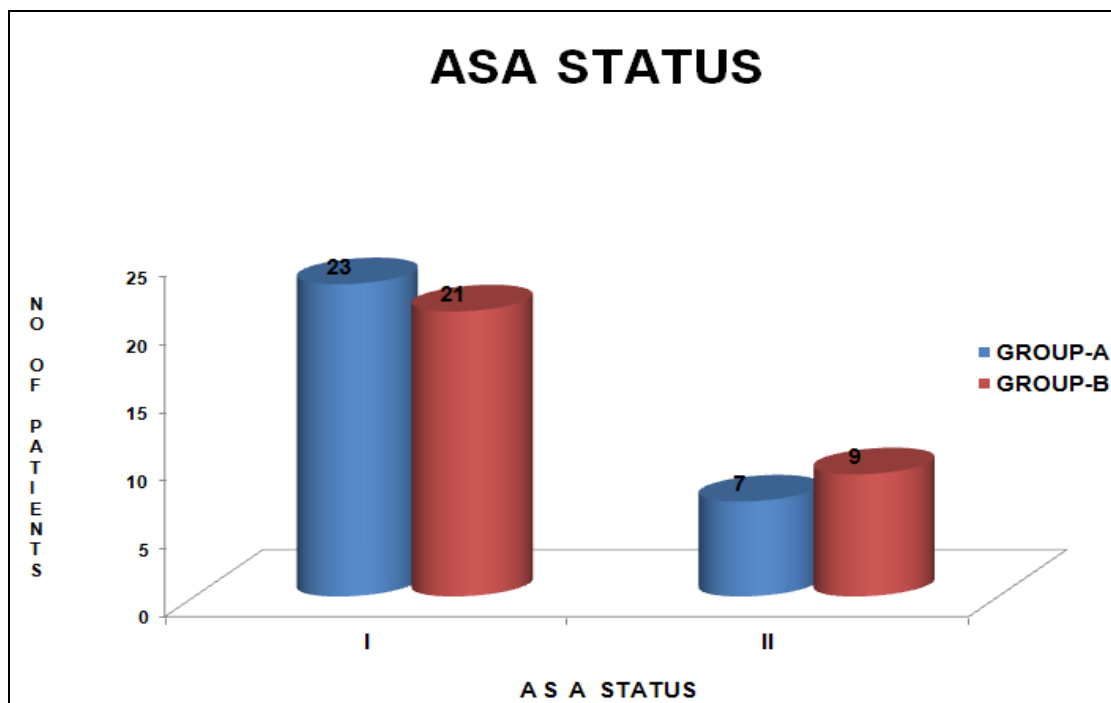
**Mean Height (Centimeter)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>GROUP-A</b>	162.60	4.52
<b>GROUP-B</b>	162.30	4.94
<b>t-value</b>	0.25	
<b>p-value</b>	0.81	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>	

The mean height distribution between the two groups are similar.

**Table-5: ASA DISTRIBUTION**

ASA	GROUP-A		GROUP-B	
	No of Patients (N)	%	No of Patients (N)	%
<b>I</b>	23	76.67	21	70.00
<b>II</b>	7	23.33	9	30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100
<b>Chi-square Value</b>	0.34			
<b>p-value</b>	0.56			
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Not Significant</b>			



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

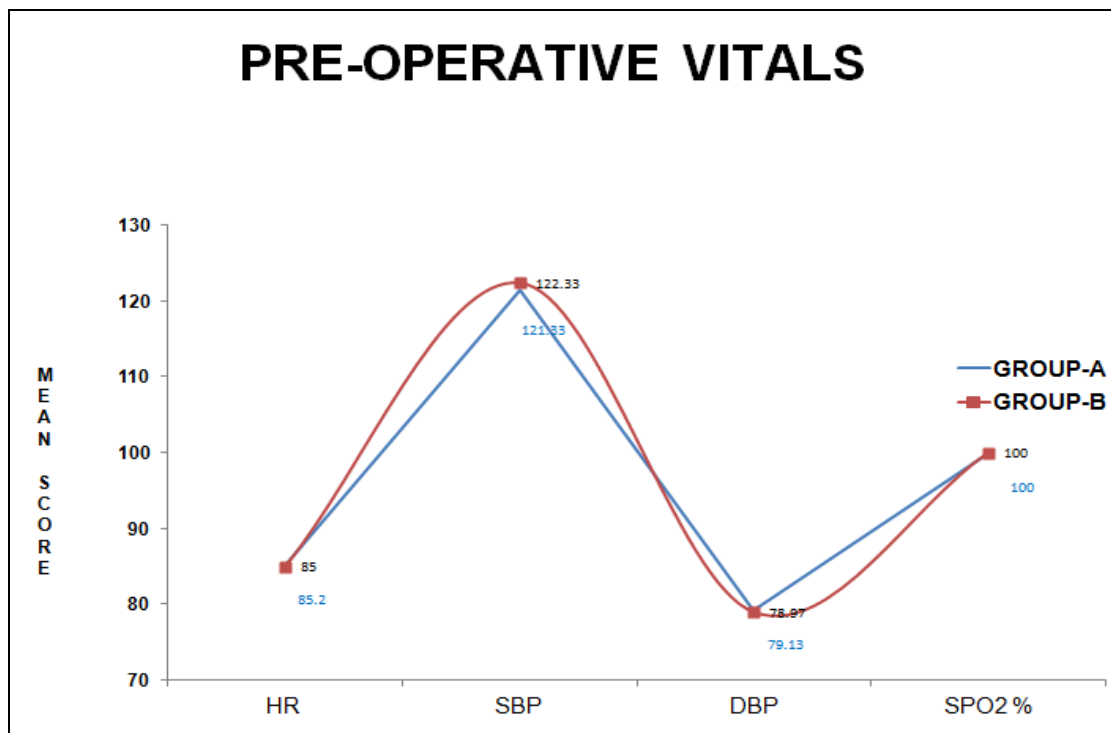
GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

ASA - American Society of Anesthesiologist

**Table-6:PRE-OPERATIVE VITALS**

Variables	GROUP-A		GROUP-B		t-value	p-value	Significant
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD			
<b>PR (Min)</b>	85.20	4.39	85.00	4.09	0.18	0.86	NS
<b>SBP (mmHg)</b>	121.33	7.45	122.33	8.02	0.50	0.62	NS
<b>DBP (mmHg)</b>	79.13	4.33	78.97	3.38	0.17	0.87	NS
<b>SPO2 %</b>	100	0	100	0	-	-	-

NS-Not Significant



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

No statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of preoperative vitals.

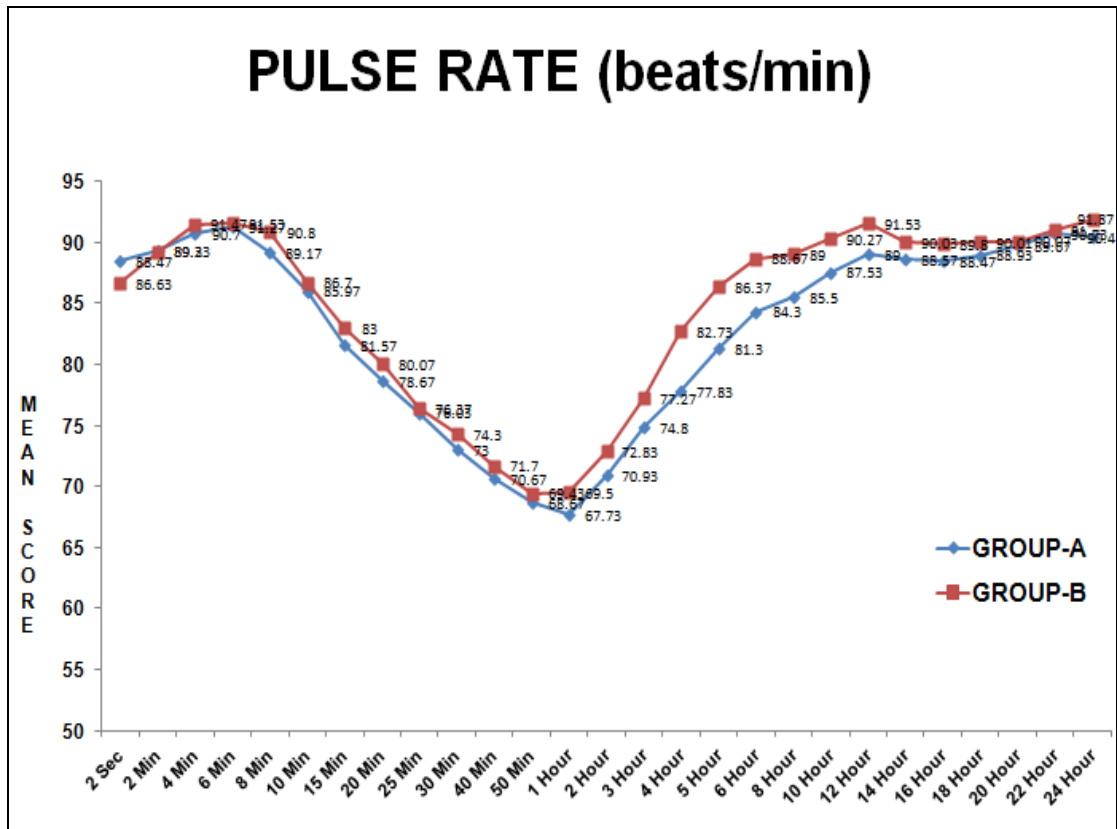


## STUDY PERIOD

**Table-7:PULSE RATE (beats/min)**

TIME	GROUP-A		GROUP-B		t-value	p-value	Significant
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD			
<b>2 Sec</b>	88.47	4.00	86.63	4.23	0.16	0.88	NS
<b>2 Min</b>	89.30	3.64	89.23	3.14	0.08	0.94	NS
<b>4 Min</b>	90.70	4.04	91.47	3.49	0.79	0.44	NS
<b>6 Min</b>	91.27	4.74	91.53	3.96	0.24	0.81	NS
<b>8 Min</b>	89.17	5.36	90.80	5.32	1.19	0.24	NS
<b>10 Min</b>	85.97	5.70	86.70	5.33	0.52	0.61	NS
<b>15 Min</b>	81.57	6.29	83.00	5.02	0.98	0.33	NS
<b>20 Min</b>	78.67	5.88	80.07	5.30	0.97	0.34	NS
<b>25 Min</b>	76.03	6.57	76.37	5.01	0.22	0.83	NS
<b>30 Min</b>	73.00	7.05	74.30	5.25	0.81	0.42	NS
<b>40 Min</b>	70.67	7.47	71.70	6.25	0.58	0.56	NS
<b>50 Min</b>	68.67	7.01	69.43	4.57	0.50	0.62	NS
<b>1 Hour</b>	67.73	5.51	69.50	5.85	1.20	0.23	NS
<b>2 Hour</b>	70.93	5.08	72.83	6.49	1.26	0.21	NS
<b>3 Hour</b>	74.80	6.04	77.27	6.06	1.59	0.12	NS
<b>4 Hour</b>	77.83	6.11	82.73	5.60	3.24	0.002	Significant
<b>5 Hour</b>	81.30	5.77	86.37	4.45	3.81	0.001	Significant
<b>6 Hour</b>	84.30	5.47	88.67	4.71	3.31	0.002	Significant
<b>8 Hour</b>	85.50	5.33	89.00	3.92	2.90	0.005	Significant
<b>10 Hour</b>	87.53	4.62	90.27	4.39	2.34	0.002	Significant
<b>12 Hour</b>	89.00	4.47	91.53	3.93	2.33	0.002	Significant
<b>14 Hour</b>	88.57	3.36	90.03	5.73	1.21	0.23	NS
<b>16 Hour</b>	88.47	3.09	89.80	5.39	1.18	0.25	NS
<b>18 Hour</b>	88.93	3.81	90.01	4.05	1.13	0.04	NS
<b>20 Hour</b>	89.67	4.06	90.07	3.64	0.30	0.05	NS
<b>22 Hour</b>	90.73	3.37	91.00	3.17	0.36	0.75	NS
<b>24 Hour</b>	90.40	2.82	91.87	4.24	1.58	0.12	NS

NS- Not Significant



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

From the above graph, it was clearly evident that the mean pulse rate for the first three hours after spinal anaesthesia was similar in both the groups, after that patients in the nalbuphine group had significantly lower pulse rate than the control group from 4 to 10 hours.

**Table-8:SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE (mm Hg)**

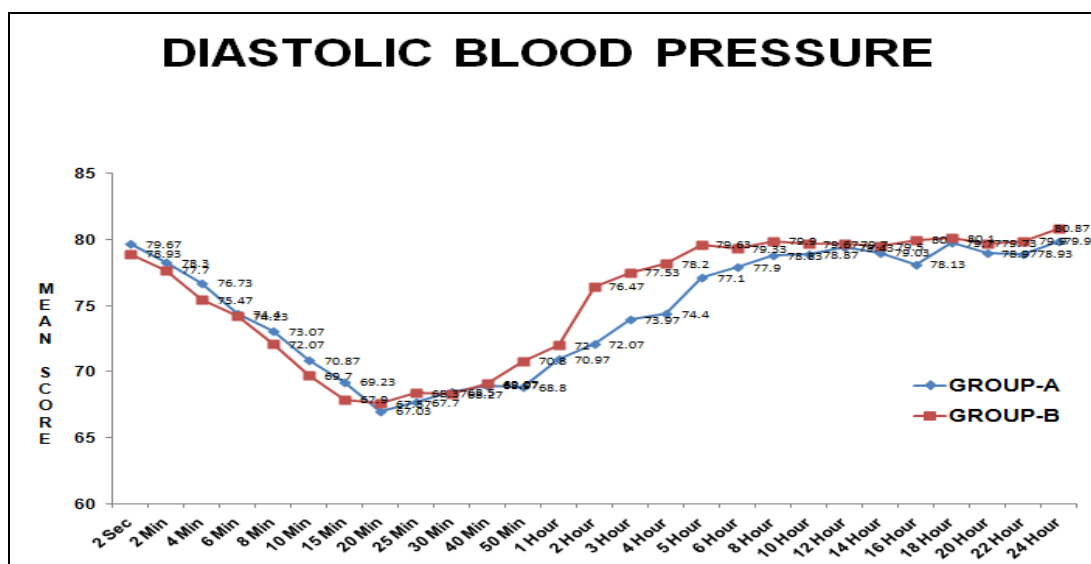
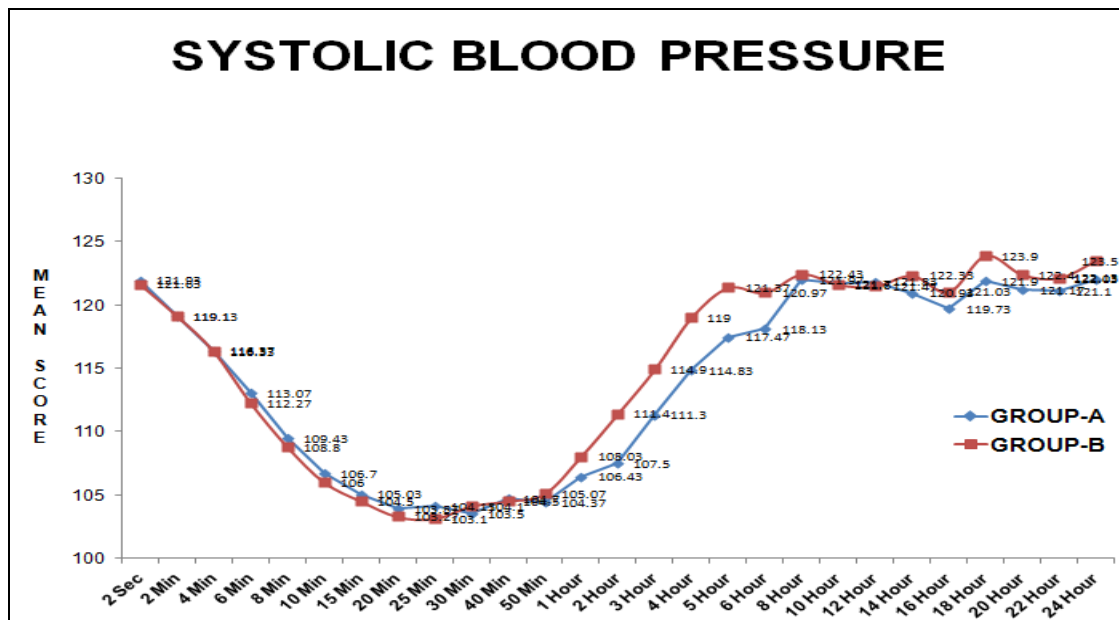
TIME	GROUP-I		GROUP-II		t-value	p-value	Significant
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD			
<b>2 Sec</b>	121.93	6.81	121.63	7.01	0.17	0.87	NS
<b>2 Min</b>	119.10	6.28	119.13	6.38	0.02	0.98	NS
<b>4 Min</b>	116.37	6.17	116.33	6.22	0.02	0.98	NS
<b>6 Min</b>	113.07	7.24	112.27	5.83	0.47	0.64	NS
<b>8 Min</b>	109.43	7.61	108.80	7.74	0.34	0.73	NS
<b>10 Min</b>	106.70	7.82	106.00	6.25	0.38	0.73	NS
<b>15 Min</b>	105.03	6.25	104.50	6.27	0.33	0.74	NS
<b>20 Min</b>	103.87	4.52	103.27	5.34	0.47	0.64	NS
<b>25 Min</b>	104.13	5.53	103.10	4.58	0.79	0.43	NS
<b>30 Min</b>	103.50	4.78	104.10	5.41	0.46	0.65	NS
<b>40 Min</b>	104.70	5.93	104.50	4.95	0.14	0.89	NS
<b>50 Min</b>	104.37	5.82	105.07	5.19	0.49	0.63	NS
<b>1 Hour</b>	106.43	5.38	108.03	5.47	1.14	0.26	NS
<b>2 Hour</b>	107.50	7.78	111.40	4.94	3.11	0.003	Significant
<b>3 Hour</b>	111.30	6.39	114.90	5.09	2.41	0.02	Significant
<b>4 Hour</b>	114.83	6.24	119.00	5.73	2.40	0.001	Significant
<b>5 Hour</b>	117.47	5.85	121.37	4.43	2.42	0.02	Significant
<b>6 Hour</b>	118.13	5.45	120.97	5.15	1.84	0.003	Significant
<b>8 Hour</b>	121.97	57.74	122.43	6.45	0.30	0.77	NS
<b>10 Hour</b>	121.70	6.06	121.60	6.55	0.06	0.95	NS
<b>12 Hour</b>	121.83	5.81	121.47	5.07	0.26	0.80	NS
<b>14 Hour</b>	120.93	5.33	122.33	6.13	0.94	0.35	NS
<b>16 Hour</b>	119.73	4.84	121.03	5.86	0.94	0.35	NS
<b>18 Hour</b>	121.90	4.41	123.90	5.13	1.62	0.11	NS
<b>20 Hour</b>	121.17	4.74	122.40	5.33	0.95	0.35	NS
<b>22 Hour</b>	121.10	4.88	122.13	5.51	0.77	0.45	NS
<b>24 Hour</b>	122.03	4.17	123.50	5.13	1.22	0.23	NS

**NS – Not Significant**

**Table-9: DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE (mm Hg)**

TIME	GROUP-I		GROUP-II		t-value	P-value	Significant
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD			
2 Sec	79.67	3.98	78.93	3.36	0.77	0.73	NS
2 Min	78.30	2.91	77.70	2.58	0.85	0.40	NS
4 Min	76.73	3.25	75.47	4.49	1.25	0.22	NS
6 Min	74.40	5.26	74.23	4.58	0.13	0.90	NS
8 Min	73.07	5.22	72.07	5.56	0.72	0.48	NS
10 Min	70.87	6.68	69.70	4.45	0.80	0.43	NS
15 Min	69.23	6.72	67.90	5.42	0.85	0.40	NS
20 Min	67.03	5.49	67.57	5.73	0.37	0.71	NS
25 Min	67.70	4.85	68.37	5.03	0.52	0.60	NS
30 Min	68.50	5.91	68.27	5.94	0.15	0.88	NS
40 Min	68.97	6.82	69.07	4.31	0.07	0.95	NS
50 Min	68.80	6.20	70.80	4.59	1.42	0.16	NS
1 Hour	70.97	5.64	72.00	4.64	0.78	0.44	NS
2 Hour	72.07	5.55	76.47	4.79	2.79	0.003	Significant
3 Hour	73.97	4.71	77.53	5.06	2.24	0.001	Significant
4 Hour	74.40	5.61	78.20	4.01	3.02	0.004	Significant
5 Hour	77.10	5.33	79.63	3.21	2.23	0.03	Significant
6 Hour	77.90	3.99	79.33	3.08	1.56	0.12	NS
8 Hour	78.83	3.50	79.90	3.41	1.20	0.24	NS
10 Hour	78.87	3.69	79.67	3.34	0.88	0.38	NS
12 Hour	79.43	3.72	79.70	4.40	0.25	0.80	NS
14 Hour	79.03	4.61	79.50	3.29	0.45	0.65	NS
16 Hour	79.13	3.34	80.00	2.73	1.37	0.42	NS
18 Hour	79.77	2.89	80.10	2.51	0.48	0.64	NS
20 Hour	78.97	3.80	79.73	2.91	0.88	0.38	NS
22 Hour	78.93	3.51	79.90	3.45	1.07	0.29	NS
24 Hour	79.90	2.81	80.87	3.08	1.27	0.21	NS

**NS-Not Significant**



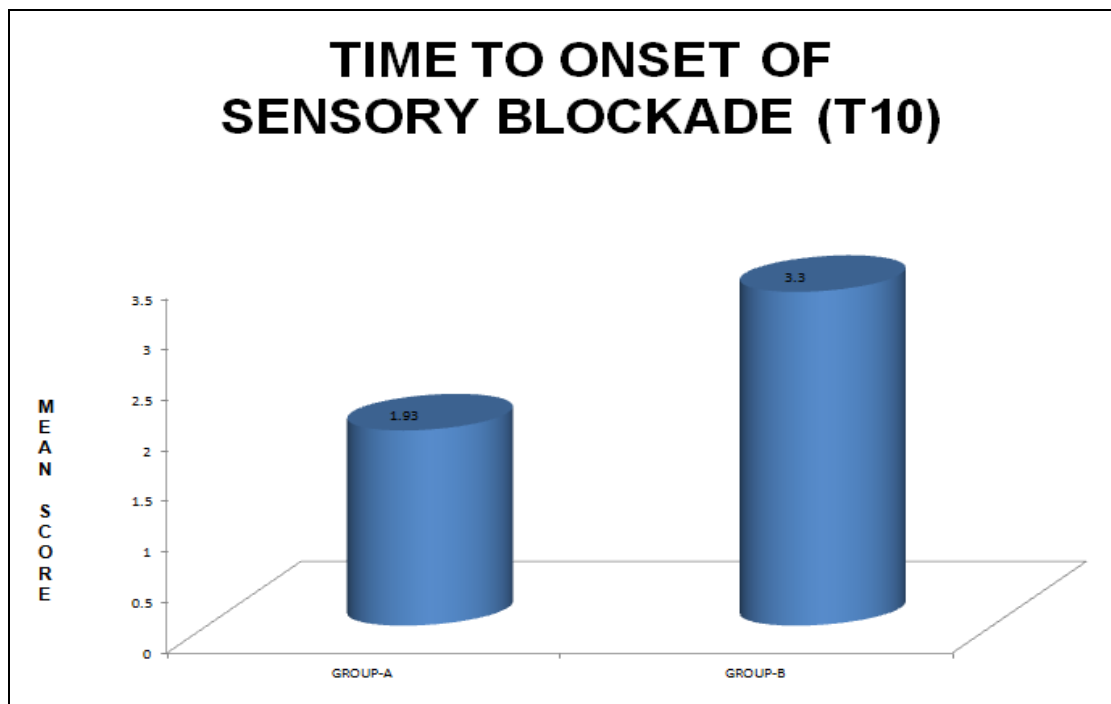
GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

These graphs shows that the mean systolic pressure (SBP) and diastolic blood pressure (DBP) were comparatively low in the nalbuphine group than the control group from 2 to 6 hrs.

**Table-10:TIME TO ONSET OF SENSORY BLOCK AT T10(MINS)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>GROUP-A</b>	1.93	0.45
<b>GROUP-B</b>	3.30	0.54
<b>t-value</b>	10.71	
<b>p-value</b>	0.000	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Significant</b>	



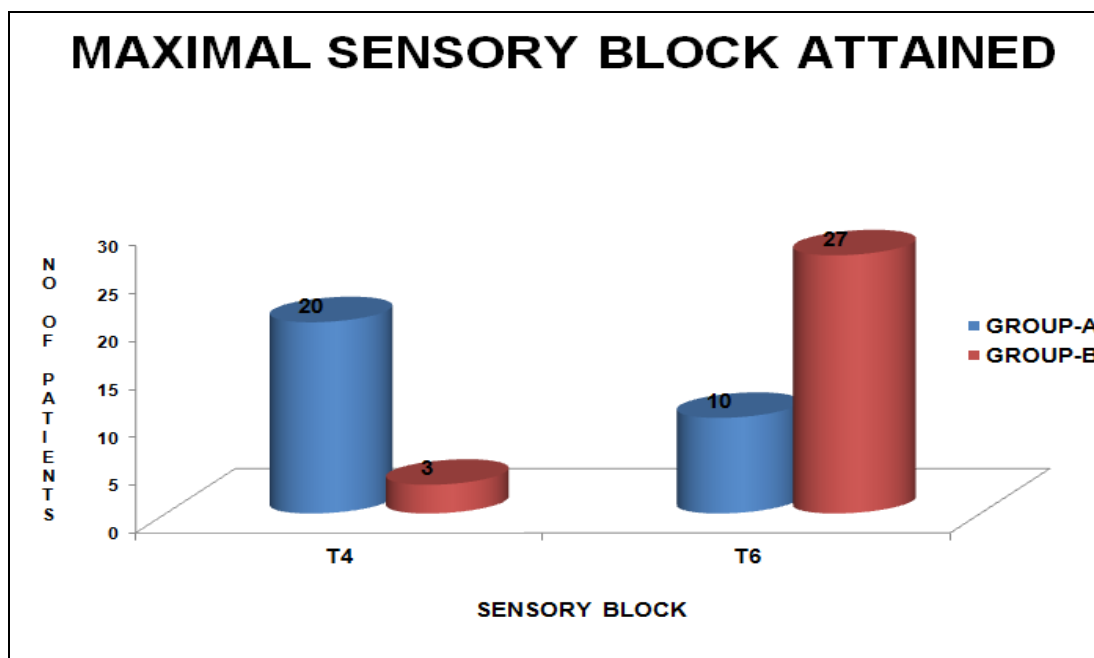
**GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE**

**GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE**

Mean onset time of sensory block in group A (Nalbuphine) was  $1.93 \pm 0.45$  mins and found to be significantly earlier than group B.

**Table-11: MAXIMAL SENSORY BLOCK ATTAINED**

SENSORY BLOCK ATTAINED	GROUP-A		GROUP-B	
	No of Patients (N)	%	No of Patients (N)	%
<b>T4</b>	20	66.67	3	10.00
<b>T6</b>	10	33.33	27	90.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100
<b>Chi-square value</b>	20.38			
<b>p-value</b>	0.000			
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Significant</b>			



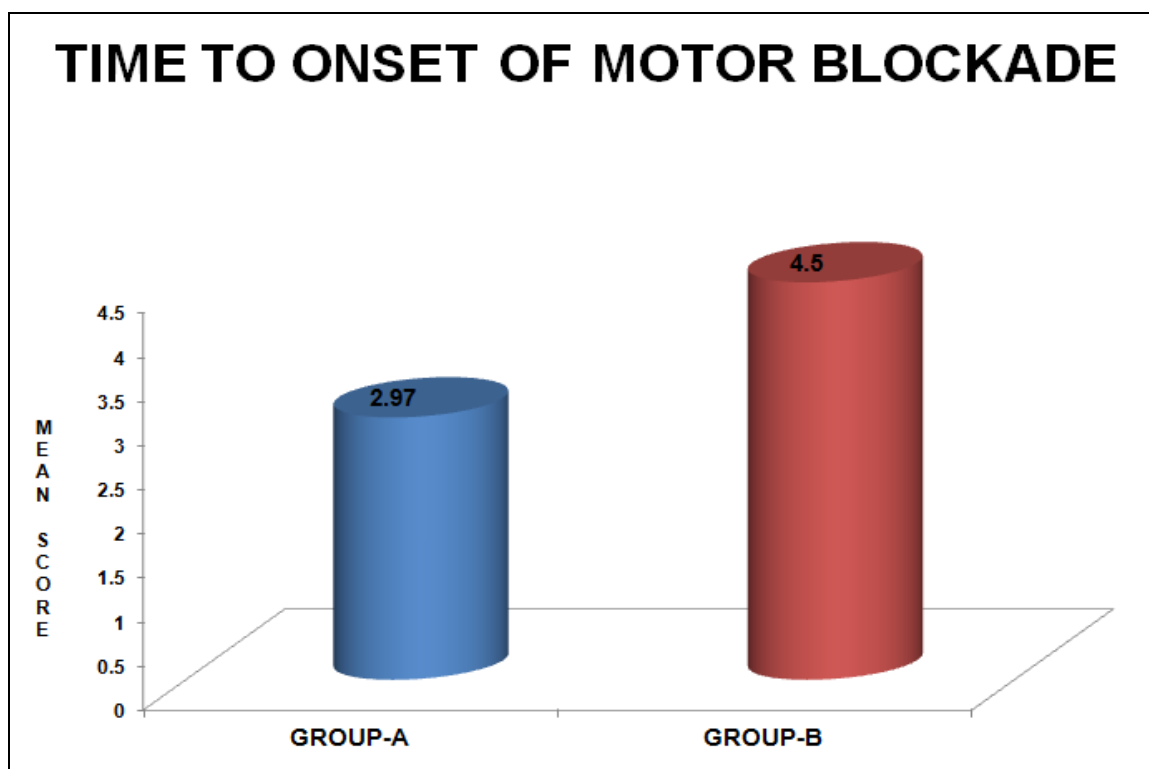
GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

More number of patients in group A attained maximal sensory block (T4) than group B and was found to be statistically significant.

**Table-12:TIME TO ONSET OF MOTOR BLOCKADE (MINS)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>GROUP-A</b>	2.97	0.56
<b>GROUP-B</b>	4.50	0.63
<b>t-value</b>	9.99	
<b>p-value</b>	0.000	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Significant</b>	



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

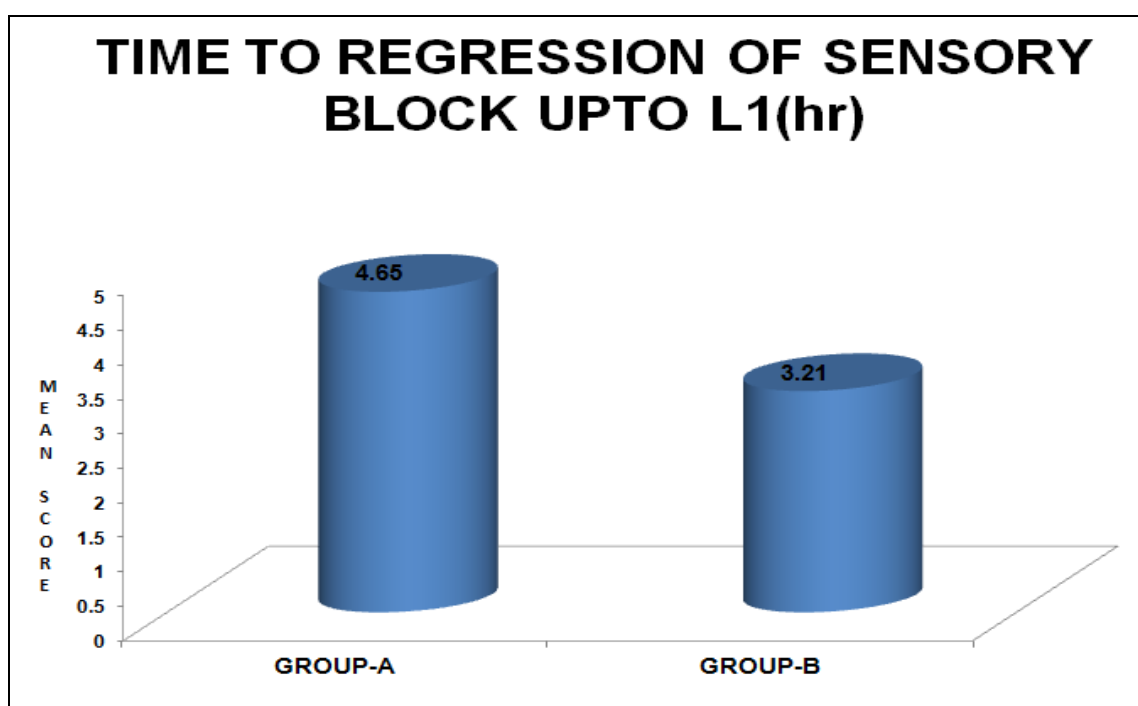
GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

Mean onset time of motor block in the nalbuphine group was  $2.97 \pm 0.56$  minutes and was found to be significantly earlier than group B.



**Table-13: TIME TO REGRESSION OF SENSORY BLOCK UPTO L1(hr)**

Group	Mean	Standard Deviation
<b>GROUP-A</b>	4.65	1.03
<b>GROUP-B</b>	3.21	0.57
<b>t-value</b>	6.86	
<b>p-value</b>	0.000	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Significant</b>	



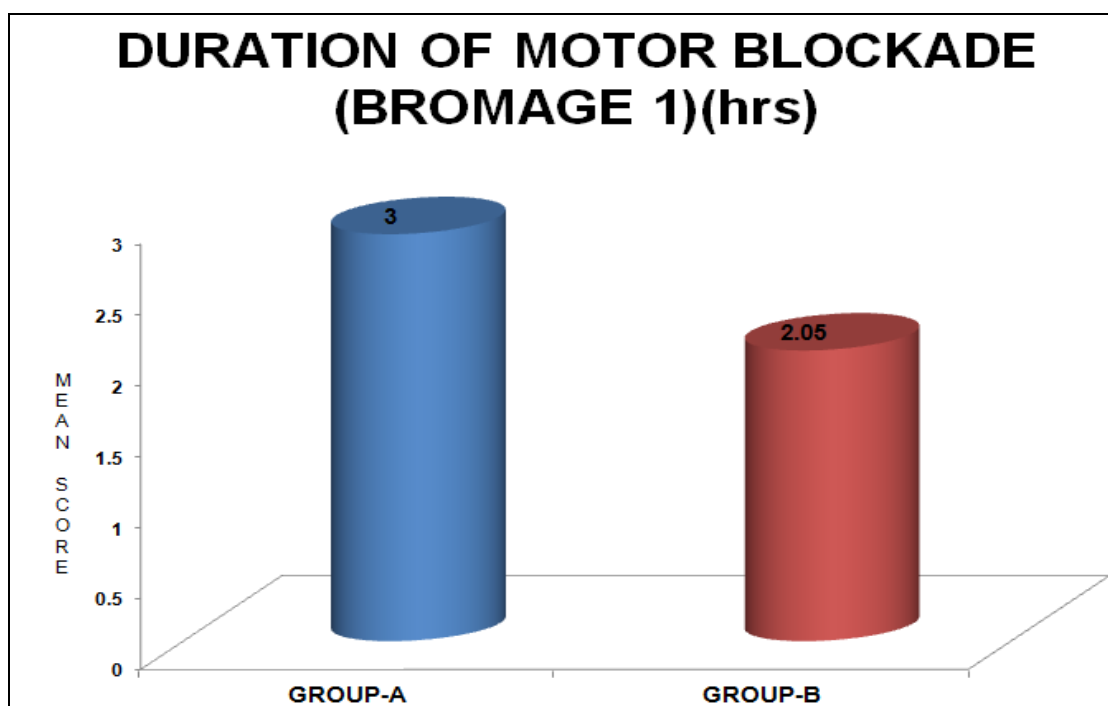
GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

Mean time to regression of sensory block up to L1 was  $4.65 \pm 1.03$  hrs in nalbuphine group and found to be significantly longer than the control group which was  $3.21 \pm 0.57$  hrs.

**Table-14:DURATION OF MOTOR BLOCKADE  
(BROMAGE 1)(hrs)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>GROUP-A</b>	2.87	0.39
<b>GROUP-B</b>	2.05	0.34
<b>t-value</b>	7.66	
<b>p-value</b>	0.000	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Significant</b>	



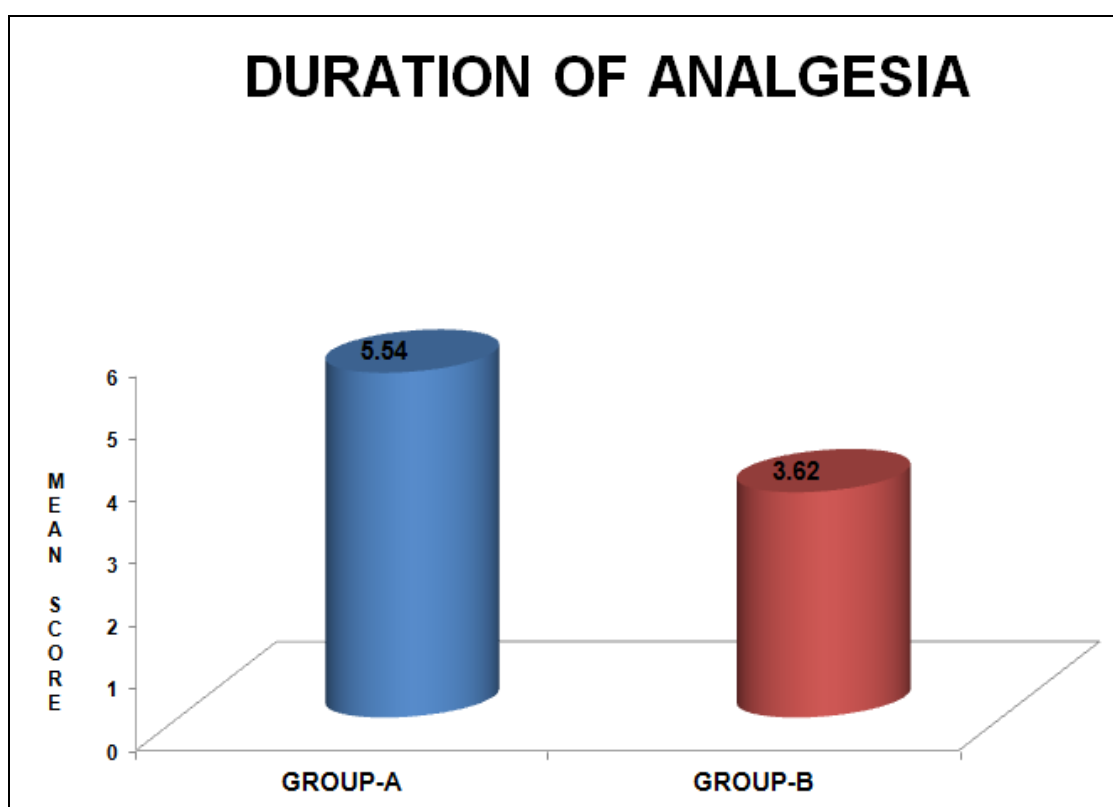
GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

Mean duration of motor blockade in group A (Nalbuphine) was  $2.87 \pm 0.39$  hrs and in group B was  $2.05 \pm 0.34$  hrs. This shows significant prolongation of motor block in nalbuphine group.

**Table-15: DURATION OF ANALGESIA (Hrs)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>GROUP-A</b>	5.54	1.05
<b>GROUP-B</b>	3.62	0.61
<b>t-value</b>	7.00	
<b>p-value</b>	0.000	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>Significant</b>	



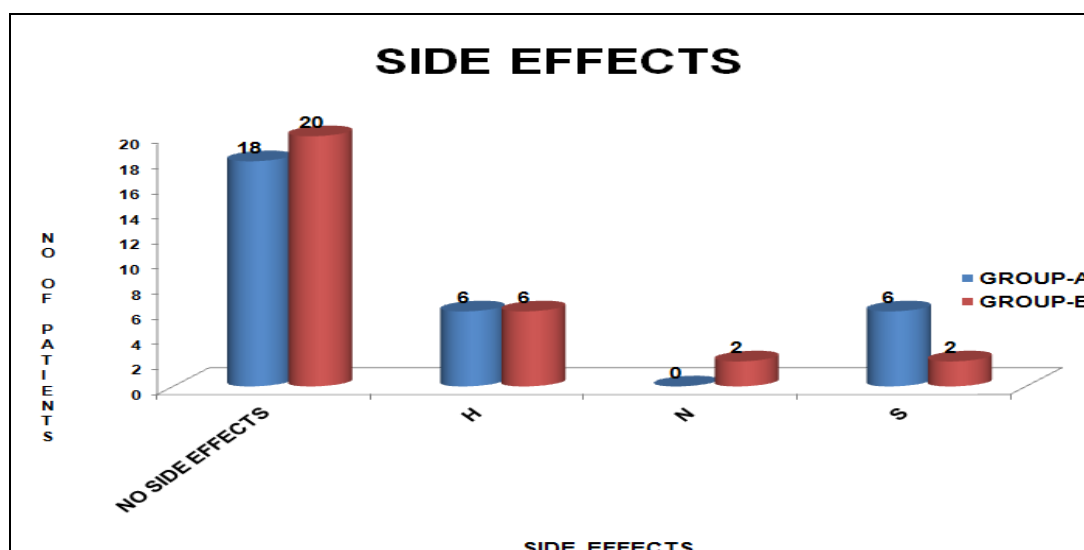
GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

The mean duration of analgesia in the nalbuphine group was  $5.54 \pm 1.05$  hrs and found to be significantly longer than control group ( $3.62 \pm 0.61$  hrs).

**Table-16: SIDE EFFECTS**

Side effects	GROUP-A		GROUP-B	
	No of Patients	%	No of Patients	%
Nil	18	60.00	20	66.66
Hypotension (H)	6	20.00	6	20.00
Nausea (N)	0	0	2	6.67
Shivering (S)	6	20.00	2	6.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>
Chi-square value	4.11			
p-value	0.25			
Significant	Not Significant			



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

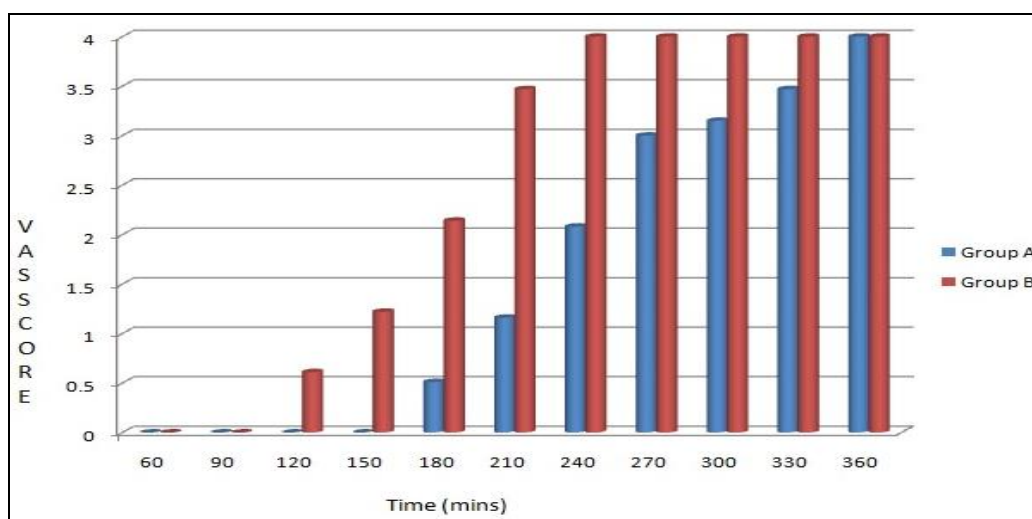
GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

The side effects reported between the two groups was not statistically significant. Hence nalbuphine can be safely administered intrathecally.

**Table-17: VAS SCORES**

Time (mins)	Group A		Group B	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
60	0	0	0	0
90	0	0	0	0
120	0	0	0.61	0.56
150	0	0	1.22	0.27
180	0.51	0.55	2.14	0.22
210	1.16	0.23	3.47	0.15
240	2.08	0.2	R	
270	3	0.13		
300	3.15	0.23		
330	3.47	0.05		
360	R			

(R - Rescue Analgesic, VAS - Visual Analog Scale)



GROUP A - BUPIVACAINE + NALBUPHINE

GROUP B - BUPIVACAINE + NORMAL SALINE

Patients in the nalbuphine group had less mean VAS scores compared to control group.

# ***Discussion***

## DISCUSSION

Over the years, extensive research have been done to improve the quality of spinal anaesthesia by varying drug regimens and technical methods. Normally adjuvants are added to hyperbaric bupivacaine 0.5% and administered intrathecally to prolong the anaesthetic effects. They produce antinociceptive effect by acting perineurally or at different receptor sites in the spinal cord.

Intrathecal opioids when used as adjuvants are capable of producing early onset of sensory, motor blockade and prolonged postoperative analgesia. They also allow early ambulation of patients due to their sympathetic and motor sparing activities.

Nalbuphine hydrochloride is a mixed  $\mu$  antagonist and  $\kappa$  agonist opioid. It has been found to cause prolongation of the effects of local anaesthetics in intrathecal, epidural and peripheral nerve blocks with the advantages of minimal respiratory depression and better hemodynamic stability.

This prospective randomised controlled study performed in 60 patients who underwent infraumbilical surgeries under spinal anaesthesia demonstrated that nalbuphine in the dose of 0.5mg when added to

hyperbaric bupivacaine had earlier onset of sensory and motor blockade and prolonged duration of analgesia.

Both the study and control groups were comparable in demographic parameters like age, weight and height. The mean age of the patients in the nalbuphine group (A) was  $39.90 \pm 7.60$  years. The mean age of the patients in the control group (B) was  $42.57 \pm 8.40$  years. The mean weight of the patients in the nalbuphine group was  $63.3 \pm 5.20$  kgs. The mean weight of the patients in the control group was  $64.67 \pm 4.27$  kgs. The mean height of the patients in the nalbuphine group was  $162 \pm 4.52$  cm. The mean height of the patients in the control group was  $162.30 \pm 4.97$  cm. The variables were compared using independent sample test and Levene's test for equality of variances and p value was found to be not significant.

The mean pulse rate of the patients in the nalbuphine group was around 77 bpm whereas in the control group it was around 83 bpm at 4<sup>th</sup> hour. The systolic and diastolic pressures of the patients in the nalbuphine group were  $114 \pm 6.24$  mmHg and  $74.40 \pm 5.61$  mmHg respectively, whereas in the control group it was around  $119 \pm 5.73$  mmHg and  $78.20 \pm 4.01$  mmHg at 4<sup>th</sup> hour. Statistical analysis of the mean blood pressure and mean pulse rate was done and p value was found to be significant between 3 to 6 hrs.



The sensory and motor block were checked after performance of subarachnoid block using pinprick and modified Bromage scale respectively. The mean onset time of sensory block (T10) in the nalbuphine group was found to be  $1.93 \pm 0.45$  mins whereas in the control group it was found to be  $3.30 \pm 0.54$  mins. The mean onset time of motor block was found to be  $2.97 \pm 0.56$  mins in the nalbuphine group whereas in the control group it was found to be  $4.50 \pm 0.63$  mins. The statistical analysis by the independent sample test and the t test for equality of means has shown faster onset time for sensory and motor block significantly with a p value of 0.0001 in the nalbuphine group. More number of patients in the nalbuphine group (A) achieved higher sensory level (T4) than the patients in the control group (B).

The mean time to regression of sensory block upto L1 in the nalbuphine group was found to be  $4.65 \pm 1.03$  hrs, whereas in the control group it was found to be  $3.21 \pm 0.57$  hrs. Mean duration of motor blockade in the nalbuphine group was  $2.87 \pm 0.39$  hrs and in the control group was  $2.05 \pm 0.34$  hrs. Statistical analysis were done and p value (0.0002) was found to be significant.

The patients were followed in the postoperative period for the presence of pain by the Visual Analog Scale. The VAS score of 4 is

considered as the termination of analgesia. When the patients had a VAS score of 4 rescue analgesic (1g IV paracetamol) was given. The mean duration of analgesia in the nalbuphine group was found to be  $5.54 \pm 1.05$  hrs and in the control group it was found to be  $3.62 \pm 0.61$  hrs. Statistical analysis revealed significant p value (0.0001) between the two groups.

Shakoooh<sup>[10]</sup> et al in their study of 60 patients had demonstrated similar faster onset of sensory and motor block -  $1.43 \pm 0.57$  minutes and  $3.47 \pm 1.01$  minutes respectively on addition of 0.8mg of nalbuphine to 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine. They also demonstrated significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) prolongation of the duration of two segment sensory regression & motor blockade -  $218.50 \pm 34.72$  mins and  $243.3 \pm 56.46$  mins. The duration of postoperative analgesia in their study was  $298 \pm 51.02$  mins. Side effects like bradycardia and urinary retention were not reported. Hence in our study, we decided to add a low dose of nalbuphine intrathecally to hyperbaric bupivacaine to produce desired results without adverse effects. The results obtained in this study was comparable with them.

Pallavi Ahluwalia<sup>[23]</sup> et al in their study of 70 patients demonstrated that the onset time of sensory block was found to be earlier in nalbuphine group ( $1.29 \pm 0.43$  mins) compared to the control group ( $3.78 \pm 1.31$  mins).

The duration of motor blockade and the duration of analgesia in the nalbuphine group were 256.41 mins and 298.43 mins. We obtained similar results in our study.

Mukherjee<sup>[8]</sup> et al formulated 'a study to determine whether nalbuphine prolongs analgesia by comparing with control group and also to determine the optimum dose of intrathecal nalbuphine'. It was observed that 0.4mg of nalbuphine with 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine produces prolongation of the duration of postoperative analgesia without any side effects. Hence we used 0.5mg of nalbuphine intrathecally.

Lin<sup>[12]</sup> et al demonstrated 'the analgesic effect of subarachnoid administration of tetracaine combined with 0.4 mg of nalbuphine or 0.4 mg of morphine'. They reported 0.4 mg of nalbuphine or morphine improves the effectiveness of intraoperative and postoperative analgesia but the side effects are less in nalbuphine group compared to morphine group. In our study we added nalbuphine to bupivacaine intrathecally and obtained similar quality of analgesia.

Intrathecal nalbuphine was in practise over 20 years with no neurotoxic side effects. Earlier studies have been conducted on parturient women did not reveal any untoward effects. There was an animal study

by Rawal<sup>[32]</sup> et al that examined the effects of intrathecal nalbuphine and reported no behavioral and systemic histo-pathologic abnormalities .

All the patients in our study both nalbuphine and control groups were monitored in the postoperative period and oxygen was supplemented at the rate of 2 litres/minute through ventimask.

# *Conclusion*

## CONCLUSION

Nalbuphine hydrochloride in the dose of 0.5mg when added as an adjuvant to hyperbaric bupivacaine 0.5% in subarachnoid block had a faster onset of sensory and motor blockade. The two segment dermatome regression time was significantly prolonged and the duration of postoperative analgesia was also increased in nalbuphine group. There was no increase in the risk of side effects like pruritus, hypotension, bradycardia and urinary retention.

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# ***Annexures***

## PROFORMA

**Name of the patient:**

**Age:**

**Sex:**

**Group:**

**Weight:**

**Height:**

**Insurance No:**

**Diagnosis:**

**Date:**

**Procedure:**

**Anaesthetic plan:**

**Anaesthetist:**

**Surgeon:**

**OT:**

<b>PREOPERATIVE DETAILS</b>
<b>ASA grade</b>
<b>Remarks</b>

**PREOP:**

**PR:**

**NIBP:**

**Spo2:**

**Temp.**

**RR:**

<b>Hb</b>	<b>RBS</b>	<b>RFT</b>	<b>ECG</b>	<b>X ray</b>	<b>Others</b>



<b>INTRAOPERATIVE DETAILS</b>	
<b>Time of spinal drug injection</b>	<b>Space</b>
<b>Drug</b>	<b>Needle</b>
<b>Time to onset of sensory block at T10</b>	
<b>Maximal sensory block attained</b>	
<b>Time to onset of maximal sensory block</b>	
<b>Time to onset of motor block (Bromage 3)</b>	
<b>Maximal motor block attained</b>	

<b>POSTOPERATIVE DETAILS</b>	
<b>Time to regression of sensory block (upto L1)</b>	
<b>Duration of analgesia</b>	
<b>Rescue analgesic</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Duration of motor blockade (Bromage 1)</b>	
<b>Time to first spontaneous micturition</b>	

**SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR**

**SIGNATURE OF THE PARTICIPANT**

**WITNESS:**

**INTRAOP VITALS**

vitals	2 s	2 min	4 min	6 min	8 min	10 min	15 min	20 min	25 min	30 min	40 min	50 min	1 hr	2 hr	3 hr	4 hr	5 hr	6 hr	8 hr	10 hr	12 hr	14 hr	16 hr	18 hr	20 hr	22 hr	24 hr	
PR (min)																												
SBP (mm Hg)																												
DBP (mm Hg)																												

SIDE EFFECTS NOTED:

TREATMENT GIVEN:

## **PATIENT CONSENT FORM**

### **STUDY TITLE**

A prospective randomized controlled study comparing anaesthetic efficacy of mixture of intrathecal nalbuphine hydrochloride and bupivacaine 0.5% heavy with bupivacaine 0.5 %heavy alone for infraumbilical surgeries.

### **STUDY CENTRE**

ESIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & PGIMSR, K.K.NAGAR, CHENNAI -78

### **PARTICIPANT NAME :**

**AGE:**

**SEX:**

I confirm that I have understood the purpose of procedure for the above study . I have the opportunity to ask the question and all my questions and doubts have been answered to my satisfaction.

I have been explained about the pitfalls in the procedure. I have been explained about the safety, advantage and disadvantage of the technique. I understand that my participation in the study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at anytime without giving any reason.

I understand that investigator, regulatory authorities and the ethics committee will not need my permission to look at my health records both in respect to current study and any further research that may be conducted in relation to it, even if I withdraw from the study . I understand that my identity will not be revealed in any information released to third parties or published , unless as required under the law. I agree not to restrict the use of any data or results that arise from the study.

I understood that I will receive drugs to prolong the duration of analgesia using nalbuphine in subarachnoid block. I have been explained that the anesthetic technique is a standard and approved technique. This may help in future research in the field of anesthesia. I consent to undergo this procedure.

**INSURANCE NO:**

**DATE:**

**Signature / thumb impression of patient**

## ஒப்புதல் படிவம்

1. எனக்கு.....அறுவை சிகிச்சையை செய்யுமாறு மருத்துவர் மற்றும் குழுவினரை வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறேன்.  
செய்யுமாறு மருத்துவர் மற்றும் குழுவினரை வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறேன்.
2. நோயின் தன்மை :  
சிகிச்சை முறை :  
இவை அனைத்தும் எனக்கு மருத்துவர் மூலம் தெளிவாக விளக்கப்பட்டன.
3. எனக்கு முதுகில் மரத்துப் போகிற ஊசி போட்டு மரத்துப் போகச்செய்து அறுவை சிகிச்சை செய்ய ஒப்புதல் தருகிறேன்.
4. இவற்றின் பின்விளைவுகளை மருத்துவர் மூலம் அறிந்து கொண்டேன்.
5. அனைத்து மருத்துவ சிகிச்சை முறைகளின் நிறைகளும் குறைகளும் எனக்கு விளக்கப்பட்டன
6. மேலே கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள அனைத்தும் மருத்துவமனை நன்னெறி (Ethics) குழுவின் வரைமுறைக்கு உட்பட்டே நடக்கும் என மருத்துவர் விளக்கினார். மேலும் இந்த சிகிச்சை முறைகளுக்கு

உடன்பட மறுக்கவும் எனக்கு உரிமை உண்டு என்பதை நான் அறிவேன்.

7. என் சிகிச்சையின் போது கிடைக்கும் தகவல்களை மருத்துவ ஆராய்ச்சிக்கு பயன்படுத்தவும் சம்மதம் அளிக்கிறேன்

நான் இந்த ஒப்புதல் படிவத்தை படித்த பின்னரே / படித்துக் காண்பிக்கப்பட்ட பின்னரே இதன் சாராம்சத்தை முழுவதுமாக புரிந்து கொண்டு பின்பே முழுமனதுடன் சம்மதித்து கையெழுத்திடுகிறேன்.

சாட்சி :

ஒப்புதல் அளிப்பவர் :.....

# *Master Chart*

## **KEY TO MASTER CHART**

### **GROUPS**

GROUP A = Bupivacaine + Nalbuphine

GROUP B = Bupivacaine + Normal Saline

### **PARAMETERS**

ON-SB = onset of sensory block

MAX-SB = maximum sensory block level

ON-MB = onset of motor block

REG-SB = regression of sensory block upto L1

DU-MB = duration of motor block

DU-ANAL = duration of analgesia

PR = pulse rate

SBP = systolic blood pressure

DPB = diastolic blood pressure

SI-EF = side effects

N = Nausea

H = Hypotension

S = Shivering



