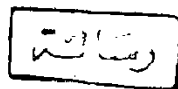


COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN CLONIDINE
AND MORPHINE FOR EPIDURAL ANALGESIA
AFTER CAESAREAN SECTION



Thesis

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Medical Degree (M.D.) in Anaesthesiology

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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction and aim of the work	1
Review of literature :	
Epidural space in pregnancy	4
Acute post operative pain	12
Opioid receptors and epidural morphine	27
Alpha-2 adrenoceptors and epidural clonidine	51
Patients and methods	88
Results	95
Discussion	139
Conclusion	166
Summary	168
Abstract	172
References	173
Arabic summary	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
1- Characteristics of ligamentum flavum at different vertebral levels.....	5
2- pKa, molecular weight, ionization and lipid solubility of four commonly used opioid drugs and one local anaesthetic.....	38
3- Classification of alpha-2 adrenergic isoceptors	54
4- Location and function of alpha-2 adrenoceptors	65
5- Physiologic responses mediated by alpha-2 adrenoceptors	67
6- Classification of alpha adrenoceptors:agonists and antagonists	74
7- Clinical applications of alpha ₂ adrenergic agonists	75
8- Demographic characteristics of patients	95
9- Effect of epidural morphine on pain sensation after c.s.....	99
10- Effect of epidural clonidine on pain sensation after c.s	100
11- Effect of combined epidural morphine and clonidine on pain sensation after c. s	101
12- The difference in pain sensation between the three studied groups after c.s	102

13- Effect of epidural morphine on heart rate after c.s	105
14- Effect of epidural clonidine on heart rate after c.s.....	106
15- Effect of combined epidural morphine and clonidine on heart rate after c.s	107
16- The difference in heart rate after c.s. between the three studied groups	108
17- Effect of epidural morphine on MABP after c.s	111
18- Effect of epidural clonidine on MABP after c.s ...	112
19- Effect of combined epidural morphine and clonidine on MABP after c.s	113
20- The difference in MABP between the three studied groups	114
21- Effect of epidural morphine on respiratory rate after c.s	119
22- Effect of epidural clonidine on respiratory rate after c.s	120
23- Effect of combined epidural morphine and clonidine on respiratory rate after c.s	121
24- The difference in respiratory rate between the three studied groups.....	122
25- Effect of epidural morphine on ABG and acid-base balance after c.s.....	124
26- Effect of epidural clonidine on ABG and acid-base balance after c.s.....	125

27- Effect of combined epidural morphine and clonidine on ABG and acid-base balance after c.s.....	126
28- The difference in pH between the three studied groups.....	127
29- The difference in PaCO ₂ between the three studied groups.....	127
30- The difference in PaO ₂ between the three studied groups.....	128
31- The difference in HCO ₃ between the three studied groups.....	128
32- The difference in base excess between the three studied groups.....	129
33- The difference in S _a O ₂ between the three studied groups.....	129
34- Effect of epidural morphine on sedation.....	132
35- Effect of epidural clonidine on sedation.....	133
36- Effect of combined epidural morphine and clonidine on sedation.....	134
37- The difference in sedation effect between the three studied groups.....	135
38- Blood glucose level in the three groups before and one hour after epidural injection of the studied solution.....	138

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
1- Lumbosacral epidural space after contrast injection	.7
2- Correlation between lidocaine dose requirements and c.s.f. progesterone concentrations in non pregnant, pregnant and post partum patients	.11
3- T.S. of spinal cord showing Rexed laminae, A β , A δ and C fibre input to cord, and spinothalamic, spinoreticular and dorsal column output	.16
4- Diagram of Rexed laminae, fibre input to and output from the spinal cord	.17
5- Ascending pathways associated with the transmission of stimuli appreciated as pain	.18
6- The higher projections of the oligosynaptic and multisynaptic ascending systems	.19
7- Descending inhibitory pathways	.23
8- Opioid peptides and their precursors	.29
9- The opioid peptide precursors	.30
10-Sites of action of opioids in the spinal cord	.35
11-Intrathecal morphine pharmacokinetics	.46
12-G protein cycling	.61
13-The possible effector mechanisms that are coupled to the alpha-2 adrenergic receptor	.62
14-Proposed molecular mechanism for the anaesthetic action of alpha-2 adrenergic agonists	.78

15-The difference in pain sensation between the three studied groups	103
16-The difference in heart rate after c. s. between the three studied groups	109
17-The difference in MABP between the three studied groups	115
17-The difference in MABP between the three studied groups	116
18-The difference in respiratory rate between the three studied groups	123
19-The difference in sedation effect between the three studied groups	136

Introduction And Aim Of The Work

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the frequency of caesarean delivery has increased markedly. Although effective pain control is essential for optimal care of such parturients, many continue to experience considerable discomfort (Ready, 1990).

The administration of intramuscular narcotics should no longer be considered routine for postoperative pain management. New alternatives exist which have been repeatedly shown to provide superior analgesia. In addition, decreased morbidity and mortality, improved pulmonary function, earlier ambulation, shorter hospital stays, less medication and greater patient acceptance have all been reported (Rauck, 1990).

Anaesthesiologists are a logical choice to provide pain relief in the immediate postoperative period because they are familiar with pharmacology of analgesia and local anaesthetics, are aware of the short- and long-term effects of drugs given intraoperatively, are knowledgeable about pain pathways and their interruption, and are skilled in techniques available to provide superior pain control (Ready, 1990).

Techniques which have become popular in the past decade include those capable of employing a catheter system. Catheters have been maintained for prolonged postoperative periods (1-7 days) in the epidural space. Which agents exhibit the best qualities for intraspinal (intrathecal and epidural) administration remain unanswered (Rauck, 1990).

Extradural opioid administration is now widely accepted for pain relief after caesarean section. The major advantages of this technique include absence of sympathetic block and cardiovascular depression, both of which may occur with local anaesthetic spinal block (Cousins and Mather, 1984). Unfortunately, intraspinally administered opioids produce side effects (urinary retention, pruritus, nausea and respiratory depression) and patients may develop tolerance to their analgesic effects (Yaksh and Onofrio, 1987).

In addition to opiate mechanisms, non-opiate spinal cord analgesic receptor systems are currently undergoing clinical investigations. Theoretically, these systems may provide superior analgesia without the side effects or risks of intraspinal opiates. The most extensively studied non-opiate systems have been the alpha-2 agonists

(Rauck, 1990). Clonidine, the prototypical agent in this class, produces dose-dependent analgesia when administered epidurally in patients with postoperative or cancer pain without producing pruritus or respiratory depression. However, sedation, haemodynamic depression and short-lasting analgesia may limit the usefulness of bolus clonidine analgesia in the postoperative period (Eisenach et al., 1989 a and b).

Combinations of drugs are widely used to reduce the therapeutic doses of anaesthetic agents as much as possible in an attempt to decrease side effects. So, further studies of combinations of clonidine with opioids are required, as synergistic effects have been postulated to occur with clonidine and morphine (Drasner and Fields, 1988).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of this work is to compare the antinociceptive effect of extradurally administered morphine and clonidine (separately and in combination) after caesarean delivery and recording the side effects of each drug.

Review Of Literature

Epidural Space In Pregnancy