Evaluation of the Analgesic Efficacy of Tenoxicam in **Comparison to Morphine**

Thesis Submitted for partial Fulfillment of M.D. Degree in Anesthesiology

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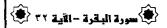
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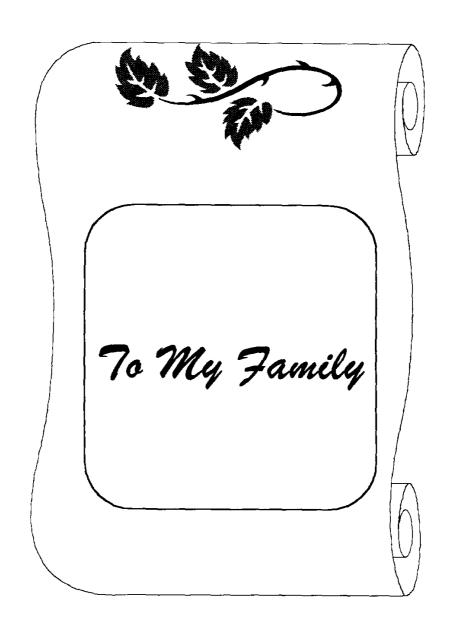
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قالوا سبحانك لا علم لنا إلا ما علمتنا إنك أنت العليم الحكيم

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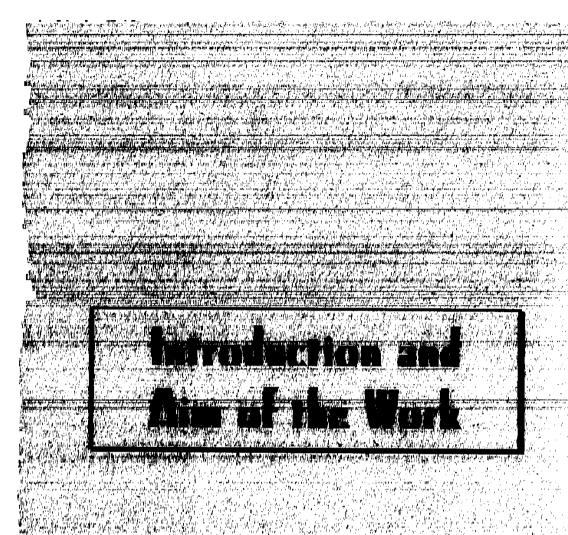
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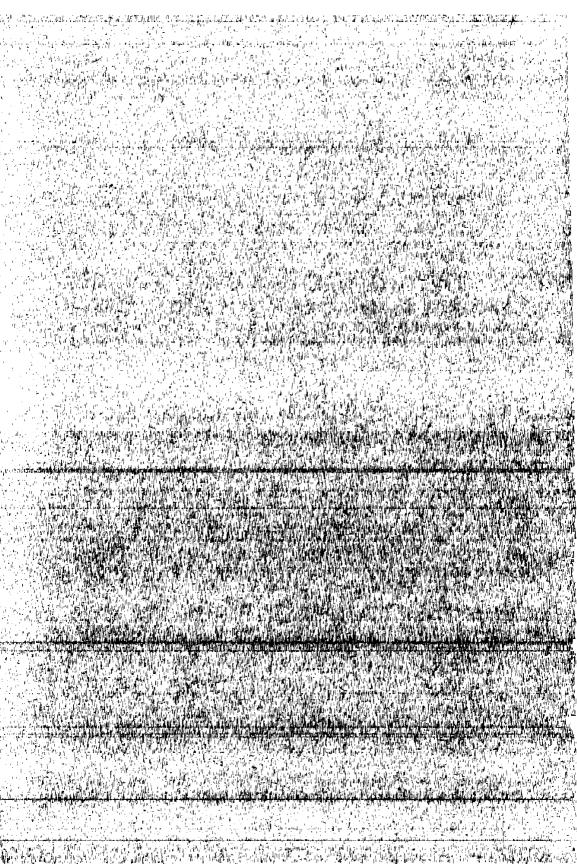
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Introduction

Relief of postoperative pain after surgery is provided traditionally by parenteral opioid analgesics or local anesthetic regimens.

Total postoperative pain relief cannot be achieved by a single agent or method without major expenditure on equipment and surveillance systems or without significant side effects and therefore recommended combined analgesic regimens (balanced analgesia).

After major surgery, an opioid is usually administered intramuscularly (I.M.) as required. In practice, because of fears about the potential for addiction and depression of ventilation, opioids are often withheld until the patient is in great discomfort. An I.M. injection given at this time will not bring rapid relief. Also, patient-controlled analgesia is effective but requires expensive equipment.

Opioids are generally unsuitable for acute pain after day-case surgery because of sedative action, and may cause unnecessary side effects.

Non opioid analgesics have been studied extensively in the postoperative period, but their potential contribution as the sole analgesic after minor or intermediate surgery or decreasing opioid requirements after major surgery.

The potential advantages of reduced opioid consumption after major surgery include a lower risk of ventilatory depression, improved cooperation and mobility because of reduced sedation, and more rapid restoration of bowel function.

Recent information on the role of arachidonic acid cascade metabolites to mediate pain and inflammation at the site of peripheral pain suggests that pharmacological modulation of the arachidonic acid cascade may be of value in balanced analgesia.

Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have proved reliable in achieving postoperative pain after minor procedures and have an important role as adjuvants to other analgesics after major surgery (Dahl and Kehlet, 1991).

Tenoxicam is a relatively new thienothiazine derivative of the oxicam class of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Tenoxicam has the advantages of I.V. formulation and a long half-life of plasma concentration (60 - 75 hours). It has negligible effects on ventilation, hemodynamics, and psychomotor control; making it an attractive alternative to opioids for surgical patients (Merry et al., 1992).

Aim of the Work:

The aim of this work is to evaluate the analgesic efficacy of tenoxicam in comparison to morphine.





Physiology of Pain

Definition of Pain:

"Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage". Pain is a complex phenomenon that involves not only physical stimuli, sensory, physiologic and autonomic changes, but also cognitive functions, affective states and behavioral phenomenon. Also, pain is a protective mechanism to minimize damage that could be inflicted by contact with harmful factors in the environment (Merskey, 1986).

In contrast to most other sensory receptors of the body, the pain receptors do not adapt at all. In fact, under some conditions, the threshold of excitation of pain fibers becomes progressively lower and lower as the pain stimulus continues, thus allowing these receptors to become progressively more activated with time. This increase in sensitivity of pain receptors is called "hyperalgesia".

Failure of pain receptors to adapt is very important as it allows them to keep person informed of a damaging stimulus that causes the pain, as long as it persists (Guyton, 1986).

Between the site of active tissue damage and the perception of pain lies a complex series of electrochemical events, collectively called "nociception". Nociception involves four physiological processes (Fields, 1987):-