

**Ropivacaine versus Ropivacaine -
Clonidine Combination for Caudal
Blockade in Paediatric Patients**

Thesis

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

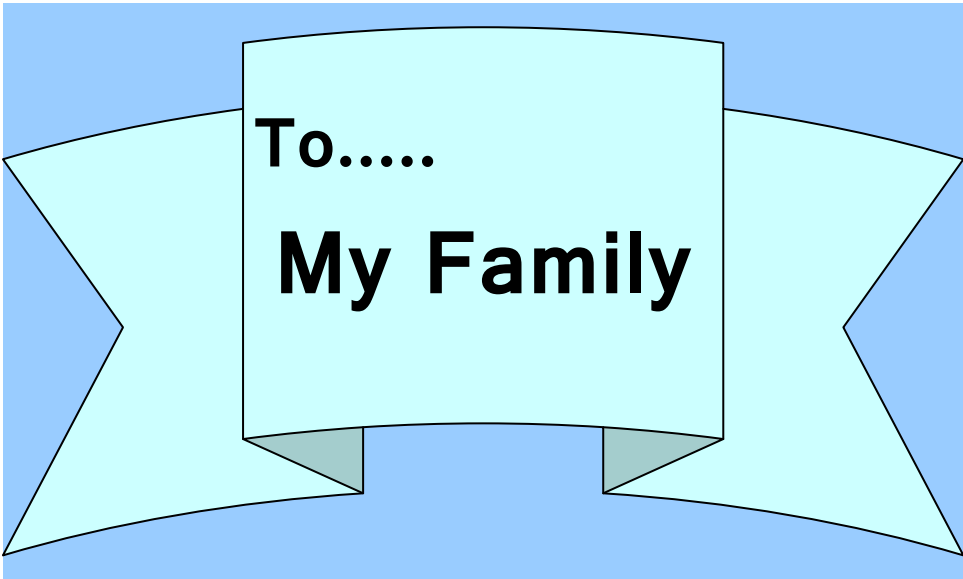
﴿قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا

إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ

الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

سورة البقرة / الآية {32}



To.....

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CONTENTS

Title	Page
• Introduction	1
• Aim of the Work	3
• Review of Literature	4
1- Historical background.....	4
2- Embryologic development of the vertebral column and spinal cord.....	6
3- Paediatric regional anaesthesia.....	8
4- Paediatric caudal blockade.....	12
5- Pharmacology of local anaesthetics in infants and children.....	24
6- Clonidine.....	40
7- Ropivacaine.....	51
8- Paediatric stress response.....	76
9- Physiology of pain.....	81
• Patients and Methods	97
• Results	107
• Discussion	125
• Conclusion	139
• Summary	140
• References	143
• Arabic Summary	---

LIST OF TABLES

No.	Title	Page
1-	Incidence of accidental dural puncture during performance of paediatric caudal block.....	21
2-	Comparison of mean elimination half-lives (hours) of lidocaine and bupivacaine in paediatric patients.....	26
3-	Physical properties of lignocaine, ropivacaine and bupivacaine.....	56
4-	Nerve fiber classification.....	57
5-	Dosage Recommendations of Ropivacaine.....	70
6-	Effect of ropivacaine versus bupivacaine on QRS widening.....	73
7-	Labor and delivery meta-analysis: mode of delivery.....	74
8-	Preoperative physical status classification of patients according to the American Society of Anaesthesiologists....	97
9-	Modified Objective Pain Score (OPS).....	102
10-	Sedation Score by Skeie.....	103
11-	Patient's characteristics and duration of surgical procedures.....	108
12-	Distribution of surgical procedures.....	108
13-	Comparison between the mean heart rate values (beat/minute) for the two groups.....	109
14-	Comparison between the mean arterial blood pressure values (mmHg) for the two groups.....	111
15-	Comparison between the mean SpO ₂ (%) values for the two groups.....	113
16-	Comparison between the mean respiratory rate values (breath/minute) for the two groups.....	115

LIST OF TABLES (cont.)

No.	Title	Page
17-	Comparison between the duration of sensory blockade in patients required rescue analgesia for the two groups.....	117
18-	Comparison between the unsupported walking time (minutes) for the two groups.....	119
19-	Comparison between the time to first micturition (minutes) for the two groups.....	120
20-	Comparison between the serum cortisol levels ($\mu\text{g/dL}$) for the two groups.....	121
21-	Comparison between the serum glucose levels (mg/dL) for the two groups.....	123

LIST OF FIGURES

No.	Title	Page
1-	Sacral surface anatomy.....	13
2-	Anatomic variants of sacrum and sacral hiatus.....	14
3-	Caudal block.....	16
4-	Prone position for caudal technique.....	16
5-	Caudal technique.....	17
6-	Clonidine.....	41
7-	Ropivacaine.....	53
8-	Optical isomers of ropivacaine.....	54
9-	Spinothalamic tract.....	84
10-	Gate control theory of pain.....	86
11-	Viewing the GABA receptor from the extracellular space.	89
12-	The GABA _A Receptor Complex.....	90
13-	Changes in the heart rate (beat/minute) with time for the two groups.....	110
14-	Changes in the mean arterial blood pressure (mmHg) with time for the two groups.....	112
15-	Changes in the SpO ₂ (percent) with time for the two groups.....	114
16-	Changes in the respiratory rate (breath/minute) with time for the two groups.....	116
17-	A histogram showing the percentage of patients required rescue analgesia for the two groups.....	117
18-	A histogram showing the average duration of sensory blockade (min) in patients required rescue analgesia for the two groups.....	118

LIST OF FIGURES (cont.)

No.	Title	Page
19-	A histogram showing the unsupported walking time (minutes) for the two groups.....	119
20-	A histogram showing the time to first micturition (minutes) for the two groups	120
21-	A histogram showing the serum cortisol levels ($\mu\text{g/dL}$) for the two groups.....	122
22-	A histogram showing the serum glucose levels (mg/dL) for the two groups.....	123

INTRODUCTION

Caudal blockade is one of the most commonly performed regional anaesthetic techniques in children (*Gaufre' et al., 1996*). Caudal blockade is usually placed after the induction of general anaesthesia and is used as an adjunct to intraoperative anaesthesia as well as postoperative analgesia in children undergoing surgical procedures below the level of the umbilicus (*Ivani et al., 1998*). Caudal analgesia can reduce the amount of inhaled and intravenous anaesthetic administration, attenuate the stress response to surgery, facilitate a rapid, smooth recovery, and provide good immediate postoperative analgesia (*Tsui et al., 1999*).

Ropivacaine, a long-acting amide local anaesthetic related structurally to bupivacaine, has been used for paediatric caudal anaesthesia (*Koinig et al., 1999*). However, ropivacaine allegedly offers a wider margin of safety, less motor blockade, less neuro or cardiotoxicity and similar duration of analgesia in comparison to bupivacaine (*McClure, 1996*). These properties suggest advantages compared with bupivacaine for regional anaesthesia and analgesia in the ambulatory setting and recent studies have reported on its efficacy and safety in younger children (*Morton, 2000*).

Clonidine, an α_2 -adrenergic agonist, produces analgesia without significant respiratory depression after systemic, epidural, or intrathecal administration (*Filos et al., 1992*). Clonidine's analgesic effect is more pronounced after neuraxial injection, which suggests a spinal site of action and makes this route of administration preferable

(*Eisenach et al., 1993*). Adding clonidine to diluted ropivacaine solutions could potentially enhance analgesia as well as further reduce the risk for unwanted motor blockade (*Ivani et al., 2000*).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of the present study was to compare the intraoperative and postoperative pain-relieving quality of a ropivacaine 0.1 % added to clonidine 2 ug/Kg (1 ml/Kg), to that of plain ropivacaine 0.2 % (1 ml/Kg) following caudal administration in children.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the past two decades, there has been considerable progress in the understanding of infant's and children's perception of pain and responses to pain (*Anand et al., 1999*). A parallel note-worthy advancement has occurred in the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of regional anaesthetic techniques in infants and children. Some of these techniques are now an integral part of perioperative and procedure-related pain management in children of all ages (*Dalens, 1995*).

Regional anaesthesia has been used for children since the beginning of the 20th century. Early enthusiasts published accounts of their success with the use of regional anaesthesia in infants and children who were considered poor risk and unfit for general anaesthetics available then (*Sethna and Berde, 2000*).

Paediatric regional anaesthesia was thus used originally in high-risk situations with insufficient understanding of its physiologic and pharmacologic effects. This led to a significant incidence of complications and consequent disfavor (*Sethna and Berde, 2000*). The advent of safer general anaesthetic agents and techniques in 1950s led to further reluctance in considering regional anaesthesia for children. In the late 1970s, the interest in paediatric regional anaesthesia in the United States was renewed after reintroduction of spinal anaesthesia as a safe alternative to general anaesthesia in high-risk premature infants, and with

the realization that peripheral nerve blocks and epidural single shot injections or infusions provided postoperative analgesia with an excellent safety profile (*Abajian et al., 1984*).

Wide application and increased experience with regional anaesthetic techniques in children in the last two decades have earned these techniques a central place in paediatric anaesthetic care. As with adults, a major impetus for use of regional anaesthesia is to improve postoperative pain management, to reduce opioid-related side-effects, and to accelerate recovery (*Sethna and Berde, 2000*).

In the adult literature, there are several situations in which prospective studies have shown regional techniques to improve outcome relative to general anaesthesia and systemic analgesics. Controlled outcome studies in children are more limited, though several studies that suggest benefit in clinical outcomes (*Basse et al., 2000*).

Paediatric regional blockade is frequently used as an adjunct to general anaesthesia or administered as a sole anaesthetic in awake or sedated patients for short peripheral surgical procedures of less than two hours (*Yeager et al., 1987*). For more extensive procedures, it is now common practice to use general anaesthesia supplemented with continuous epidural infusions of local anaesthetics, either alone or in combination with an opioid or other additives such as clonidine (*Sethna and Berde, 2000*).

Although most of the available regional techniques used in adults have been tried in children, individual technique should be selected for a particular child based on consideration of risks and benefits.