

**Comparative Study between Levobupivacaine 0.5%  
versus Bupivacaine 0.5% in Vitreoretinal Surgery  
through a Single Injection Medial Canthus Technique  
and an Animal Study of its Myotoxicity**

**Thesis**

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## *Abstract*

Levobupivacaine is a local anesthetic having similar efficacy of bupivacaine but with enhanced safety. Regarding the medial canthus peribulbar site of injection it has nearly the same effect as the traditional double site injection technique. Extraocular muscles are among the fastest and the most fatigue resistant muscles due to their dense blood supply and the fewer number of muscle fibers included in the motor unit, showing myotoxicity after local anesthetic injection according to the concentration of the agent, volume injected and the mixture used, where levobupivacaine showed more muscle damage when injected as a sole agent in the experimental work.

### *Keywords:*

Levobupivacaine, bupivacaine, medial canthus injection technique, myotoxicity.

## *List of contents*

List of abbreviations	i
List of figures	iv
List of tables	viii
Anatomy of the eye and the orbit	Page 1
Anatomy of the rabbit's extraocular muscles	Page 22
Microscopic anatomy of striated muscle	Page 26
Ophthalmic anesthesia	Page 34
Drugs' pharmacology	Page 57
Materials and methods	Page 75
Results	Page 83
Discussion	Page 105
Conclusion	Page 114
Summary	Page 115
References	Page 123

# *List of Abbreviations*

A band: Anisotropic band

ANOVA: Analysis of variance

ASA: American society of the anesthesiologists

bv: blood vessels

CBF: cerebral blood flow

CMRO<sub>2</sub>: cerebral oxygen consumption

CNS: Central Nervous System

CT: Computed tomography

df: degrees of freedom

EC50: Concentration of drug at the half way point of its Dose-response curve, midway between minimum and maximum points.

ECG: Electrocardiography

EOMs: Extra ocular muscles

FDA: Food and drug administration

G: Gauge

GABA:  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid

h: hour

I band: Isotropic band

IM: intramuscular

IO: Inferior Oblique

IOP: Intraocular pressure

IR: Inferior Rectus

IU: International Unit

IV: Intravenous

L: lymphocyte infiltrate

LAs: Local Anesthetics

LGN: Lateral Geniculate Nucleus

LR: Lateral Rectus

LS: Longitudinal Section

mf: muscle fibers

min: minutes

MR: Medial Rectus

n: large rounded nuclei

PAG: periaqueductal gray matter

rmf: regenerating muscle fibers

RVM: rostral ventromedial medulla

s: stroma

SD: standard deviation

SO: Superior Oblique

SPSS: statistical package for social science

SR: Sarcoplasmic reticulum

T tubules: Transverse Tubules

t= Student t-test

TS: transverse section

v: microvacuolation

$V_{\max}$ : maximum upstroke velocity of the action potential

vs: versus

$X^2$ : Chi- square

## *List of Figures*

Figure 1: Anterior view of skull

Figure 2: The general arrangement of the orbit

Figure 3: The bones of the orbit

Figure 4: Anatomy of the lacrimal duct apparatus

Figure 5: The globe from behind.

Figure 6: Globe in orbit as viewed from lateral side

Figure 7: Annulus of Zinn. Orbital apex with globe removed.

Figure 8: Insertions of rectus muscles forming spiral of Tillaux.

Figure 9: A, Direction of eye movement on contraction of each muscle, with eye in primary position. B, Muscles that cause vertical movement when eye is either adducted or abducted.

Figure 10: the globe

Figure 11: Three partitions of conjunctiva.

Figure 12: Posterior sclera

Figure 13: Periphery of anterior segment of the globe.

Figure 14: Retinal cells and synapses

Figure 15: Light micrograph of transverse section through anterior chamber angle.

Figure 16: Relationship of the lens and zonule to other ocular structures



Figure 17: Orbit viewed from above showing branches of ophthalmic nerve

Figure 18: Orbit viewed from above, illustrating branches of ophthalmic artery.

Figure 19: Lateral view of the rabbit skull to show the orbit

Figure 20: Dissection of orbital contents (superior view)

Figure 21: Dissection of orbital contents (inferior view)

Figure 22: Normal pigmented rabbit's eye.

Figure 23: Transverse section of fibres of a human rectus muscle

Figure 24: Structure of the human rectus muscle

Figure 25: Myosin and actin myofibrils.

Figure 26: A, Arrangement of thick and thin filaments in sarcomere. B, Photomicrograph of striated muscle, with parts of sarcomere indicated

Figure 27: connective tissue network of striated muscle

Figure 28: Horizontal cadaver section of the orbit

Figure 29: Anatomy and physiology of the Oculocardiac reflex.

Figure 30: inferotemporal and medial injection sites.

Figure 31: During administration of a retrobulbar block

Figure 32: many techniques of facial nerve block

Figure 33: Needles position for extraconal techniques

Figure 34: A, Anatomical view of a coronal section of a frozen cadaver with the needle simulated in place. B, Anatomical drawing of the same view

Figure 35: A blunt posterior sub-Tenon's metal cannula 19 G

Figure 36: Steps of sub-Tenon's block

Figure 37: Anatomy of the sub-Tenon's space

Figure 38: Structures of two local anesthetics, the aminoamide lidocaine and the aminoester procaine

Figure 39: The molecular structures of levobupivacaine and dextrobupivacaine.

Figure 40: Structure of propofol

Figure 41: Simulated time course of whole blood levels of propofol after an induction dose of 2 mg/kg.

Figure 42: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of the control group, transverse section (TS).

Figure 43: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of control group, longitudinal section (LS).

Figure 44: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIa, TS.

Figure 45: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIa, LS.

Figure 46: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIb, TS.

Figure 47: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIb with higher magnification, TS.

Figure 48: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIb, LS.

Figure 49: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIc.

Figure 50: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIc.

Figure 51: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIc.

Figure 52: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIc.

Figure 53: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIc with higher magnification.

Figure 54: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIc.

Figure 55: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IId.

Figure 56: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IId.

Figure 57: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IId.

Figure 58: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IId.

Figure 59: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IId.

Figure 60: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIe

Figure 61: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIa

Figure 62: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIa.

Figure 63: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIb.

Figure 64: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIb.

Figure 65: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIb.

Figure 66: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIb.

Figure 67: Light micrograph of rabbit EOM of group IIIb.

## *List of Tables and Graphs*

Table 1: Order of Origin of Branches of Ophthalmic Artery

Table 2: pros and cons of regional anesthesia

Table 3: Motor innervation of the eye

Table 4: sensory innervation of the eye

Table 5: physicochemical properties of local anesthetics

Table 6: Classification of opioid compounds

Table 7: Demographic data for each group expressed as frequency and percentage

Table 8: Age for each group.

Table 9: ASA classification for each group.

Table 10: number of injections.

Table 11: Haemodynamic variables for each group.

Table 12: Injected volumes, onset and duration of motor block, onset and duration of sensory block in each group.

Table 13: Duration of motor block relative to previous surgeries done

Table 14: Duration of sensory block relative to previous surgery

Table 15: Numbers of injections received relative to previous surgeries

Table 16: Postoperative analgesia frequency

Table 17: Surgeon satisfaction in relation to the intraoperative events

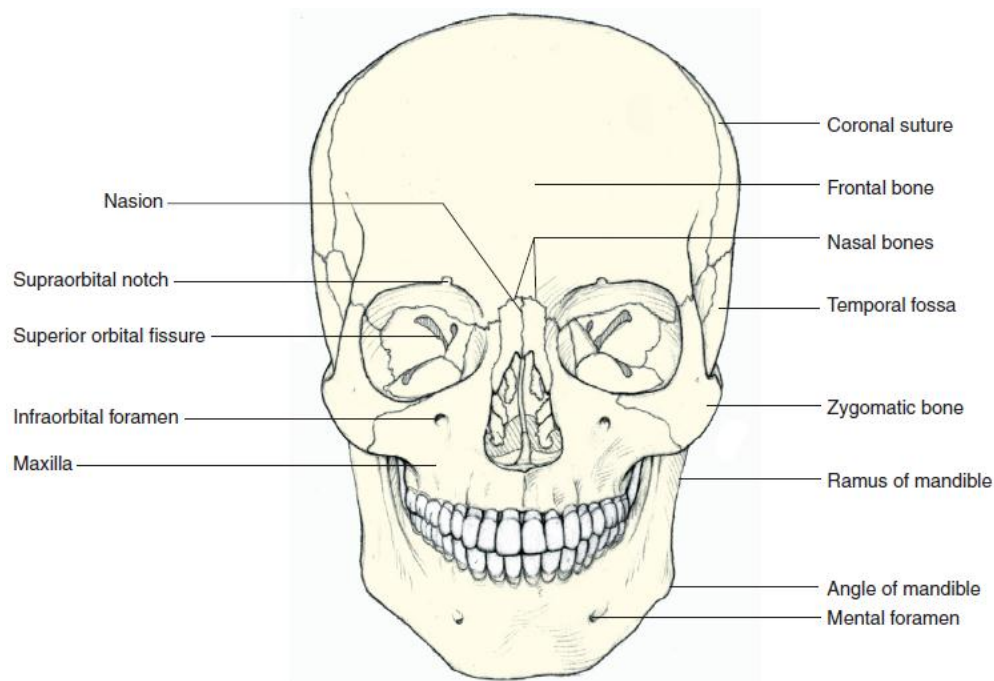
Table 18: Patient satisfaction.

Graph 1: mean amount injected in ml in the four groups

# **Anatomy of the Eye and the Orbit**

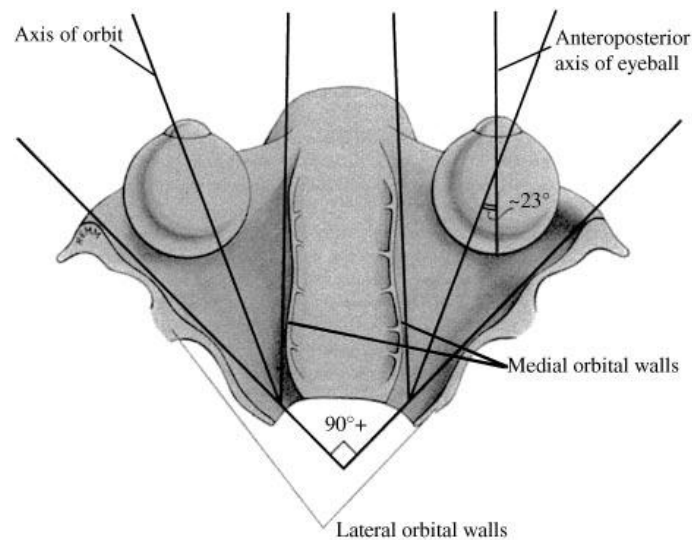
## **The skull and the orbit:**

The orbits are bony cavities on either side of the midsagittal plane of the skull below the cranium, containing the globes, the extraocular muscles, and orbital nerves, blood vessels, and connective tissue. (Remington, 2005) (Figure 1)



**Figure 1:** Anterior view of skull. (Mathers et al, 1996)

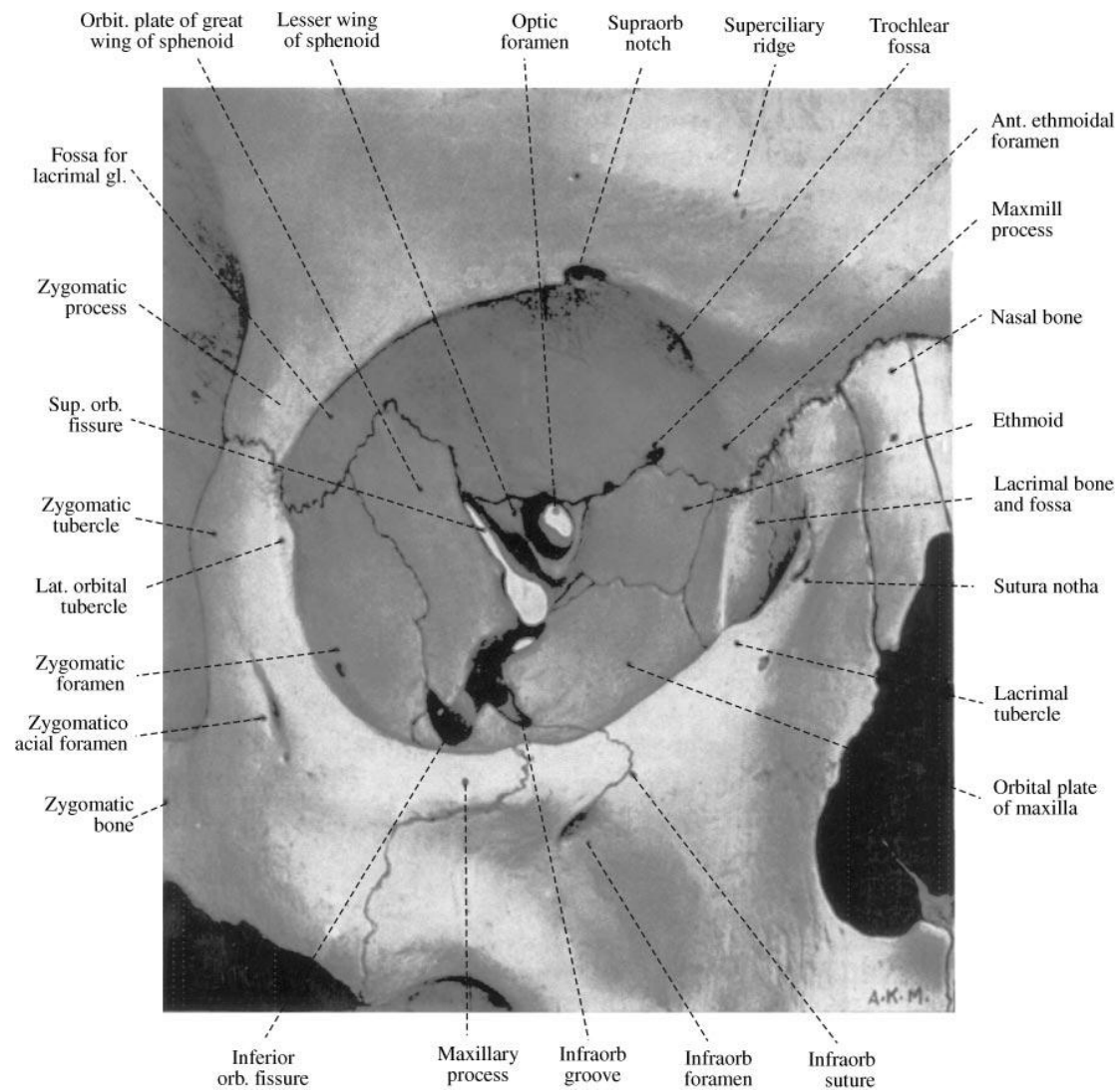
The orbit is shaped like a four-sided pyramid, the base of which is at the anterior orbital margin and the apex at the posterior margin within the skull. Orbital walls are referred to as roof, floor, medial and lateral walls. The medial walls run approximately parallel to each other, whereas the two lateral walls, if extended posteriorly, would form approximately a 90-degree angle with each other. (Doxanas & Anderson, 1984) (Figure 2)



**Figure 2:** The general arrangement of the orbit. (*Smerdon 2000*)

The orbit narrows progressively to the orbital apex, through and around which enter the important nerve vessels and the *optic nerve*. Behind the apex of the orbit are the cavernous sinus and the important structures of the midbrain. Between the medial walls are sinuses, the nasal cavity and the nasolacrimal system. Outside the lateral wall is the temporal fossa, which houses the temporalis muscle. Outside the roof of the orbit is the frontal lobe of the brain posteriorly and the frontal sinus anteriorly. Outside the floor of the orbit are the maxillary sinus and the infra-orbital nerve. The thick lateral wall of the orbit is at  $45^\circ$  to the medial. (*Smerdon 2000*) The average orbital depth is 4.5 cm. (*Doxanas & Anderson, 1984*)

The highest point of the superior orbital margin's arch is located one-third the way from the superior medial corner of the orbit. The *supraorbital notch* (figure 3) is located just medial to the center of the superior orbital margin and is the conduit for the supraorbital vessels and nerves, where it can be palpated easily, although in 25% of orbits the supraorbital notch is enclosed to form a foramen. (*Webster et al., 1986*)



**Figure 3:** The bones of the orbit. (*Smerdon 2000*)

**The eyelids** are covered with thin sensitive skin, where the palpebral (eyelid) part of orbicularis oculi provides gentle closure of the eye by its sphincter effect, being supplied by the facial nerve. Under the orbicularis is the levator muscle, which inserts in the lower anterior part of the tarsal plate, that lies internal to the orbicularis, providing rigidity to the eyelid, and containing meibomian glands. The meibomian glands secrete light oil, which reduces tear evaporation. (*Smerdon 2000*)