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Anesthetics impair dendritic spine development in the postnatal mouse somatosensory cortex
Adrian Brittain, Melanie Bernasconi, Paul Knauers, Jozsef Kiss, Dominique Muller, Laszlo Vutskits
1Department of Anaesthesiology, Pharmacology and Intensive Care, University Hospital of Geneva; 2Department of Fundamental Neurosciences, University of Geneva Medical School
Background: An important feature of the developing mammalian brain is the intense burst of synaptogenesis during the early postnatal period. In the mouse somatosensory cortex, the number of synaptic contacts increases several folds between the 2nd and 4th postnatal week. Whether exposure to anesthetics during this period affects development of neural circuitry remains to be determined. Transgenic mice, expressing the yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) in layer 5 pyramidal neurons of the somatosensory cortex (SSC) provide valuable tools to address this issue. Using this mouse strain, the present study was aimed to investigate whether anesthetics alter physiological developmental patterns of dendritic spines, representing the principal sites of excitatory synaptic contacts of neurons, in the SSC during the brain growth spurt period.
Methods: YFP mice (C57BL/6J background) were exposed to a 5-hour-long sedation protocol using propofol, midazolam or ketamine at postnatal day (PND) 15, 20, 30 or 90. Animals were then sacrificed for histopathological evaluations of the brains either immediately at the end of the treatment or, in case of PND15 animals, also at later developmental stages including PND20, PND30 and PND90. Using laser scanning confocal microscopy, the effects of anesthetics on neural circuitry of layer 5 pyramidal neurons of the SSC were evaluated by quantifying the following morpho-functional parameters describing dendritic spines: (i) density; (ii) type (iii) length and (iv) head diameter.
Results: The 5-hour-long treatment paradigm did not induce any significant perturbations in blood gas parameters or in blood glucose levels. Anesthesia-induced caspase-3 immunostaining revealed that neither propofol, nor midazolam or ketamine induce apoptotic response in the SSC at any age tested (PND 15-90). In contrast, all drugs induced rapid remodeling of dendritic spines in PND15 and PND20, but not in older animals. As soon as 5 hours following anesthesia induction, a significant increase in the number of dendritic spines (p <0.01) and filopodia (p <0.01) as well as a significant decrease in dendritic spine head diameter (p <0.05) was observed on apical dendrites of layer 5 pyramidal neurons of the SSC. In animals, receiving anesthesia at PND15, spine density was still significantly higher (p <0.05) at PND20 compared to control groups, and significant differences (p <0.01) in spine head diameter persisted up to PND20.
Conclusion: These data show that exposure to anesthetics during critical periods of synaptogenesis can induce long-lasting impairments in dendritic spine development. Given the essential role of dendritic spines in synaptic transmission, our results thus raise the intriguing possibility that administration of anesthetics during the brain growth spurt period might interfere with appropriate development of neural circuitry.

Feasibility of gene therapy for the treatment of neuropathic pain: downregulation of GTP cyclohydrolase 1 expression via RNA interference
Sandy Jean, Chris Towne, Patrick Aebischer, Isabelle Decosterd
CHU, UNIL & EPEFL
Background: Following peripheral nerve injury, changes in gene expression in dorsal root ganglia neurons contribute to neuropathic pain (NP). Among those modifications, the GTP cyclohydrolase 1 (GCH1) is upregulated in primary sensory neurons. GCH1, a rate limiting enzyme for tetrahydrobiopterin synthesis, is a key modulator of pain. This work concerns the downregulation of GCH1 expression in vitro using RNA interference, an effective tool to silence gene expression. Our goal is to modulate in vivo the expression of GCH1 using viral vectors, and explore the feasibility of a gene therapy treatment for NP.
Method: PC 12 cells, derived from pheochromocytoma of the adrenal medulla, express GCH1. Recombinant adeno-associated viral plasmids were generated that drive the expression of 6 different GCH1 silencers. A 2 GCH1 mismatches together with an enhanced green fluorescent protein marker (eGFP). Control conditions consist of the 2 mismatches or the viral plasmid containing the GFP only. Plasmids are incorporated in PC12 by electroporation in triplicate. Three days later, transfected cells are separated using fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) and analysed for GCH1 expression by Western blot.
Results: For each of the transfected plasmid, we obtained specific bands for GCH1 by Western blot analysis. After normalization of GCH1 by tubulin as loading control, we observed a significant decrease in GCH1 expression in 2 constructs out of the 9 plasmids. For the best plasmid, the decreased expression was 54% ± 12% (n = 3), (p <0.05).
Conclusion: We demonstrated that GCH1 gene expression is downregulated in PC12 cells. Our results suggest that RNA interference may be a tool for silencing genes of interest into the pain pathway.
Perspective: We plan to generate a recombinant adeno-associated virus vector with the most efficient plasmid we obtained. We need to confirm these preliminary results in vivo then test the efficacy in a model of NP.

Regulation of the voltage-gated sodium channel Nav1.7 current in vitro
Cédric Laedermann, Isabelle Decosterd, Hughes Abriel
University of Lausanne
Background: Chronic pain, and especially neuropathic pain (NP), is a frequent and disabling disorder occurring as a consequence of lesion or dysfunction of the nervous system. The pathogenesis of NP involves multiple players; one of the prominent among them is the appearance of a positive shift in the excitability of the peripheral and central nervous system. This peripheral activity is mainly carried by voltage-gated sodium channels, where Nav1.7 isofrom seems to be an important candidate since loss of function mutations reported in the corresponding gene was associated with congenital inability to experience pain. These channels contain an a-subunit (Nav1f), forming the pore of the channel, and b-subunit responsible for the regulation of channel density at the cell membrane. Ubiquitin ligases of the Nedd4 family are also known to regulate the channel density at the cell membrane. The aim of this work was to investigate the cellular mechanisms involved in the regulation of the membrane density of the Nav1.7 isofrom that may be altered in NP.
Methods: To investigate whether Nav1.7-current was sensitive to the regulation of channel density at the cell membrane, we used a recombinant adeno-associated viral plasmid containing Nav1.7 under the control of a tetracycline-regulated promoter to downregulate the expression of Nav1.7 in PC12 cells. We then tested the efficacy in a mouse model of neuropathic pain.

Nociceptive receptive fields: normal values in the pain-free population
Alban Y. Neun, Ole K. Andersen, Antony Dickerson, Lars Arendt-Nielsen, Michele Curatolo
1University Dep. of Anaesthesiology and Pain Therapy, University Hospital of Bern; 2Center for Sensory-Motor Interaction, University of Aarhus, DK; 3Dep. of Pharmacology, University College London, UK
Aim of investigation: Expansion of the receptive fields of spinal neurones is an important manifestation of central plasticity leading to amplification of pain. No validated model for such an assessment in patients exists. The purpose of this study was to investigate a new method to assess receptive fields in humans based on reflex responses and to set reference values of the normal population for future research and clinical applications.
Methods: We studied 300 healthy subjects (150 males and 150 females, 18–80 years old). Nociceptive withdrawal reflexes (NWR) were evoked by applying painful electrical stimulation at intensity of 1.5 times higher than the pain threshold at ten spots of the foot sole. The responses were measured as electromyographic response from the muscles tibialis anterior (TA), soleus (SOL), biceps femoris (BF) and quadriceps vastus lateralis (VL). The area of nociceptive reflex responding field (RRF) was defined as the skin area within the detected RRF area.
Results: The area and volume of the receptive fields were quantified in all cases. The mean values (standard deviations) of the areas were: TA 0.44 (0.28), SOL 0.66 (0.34), BF 0.68 (0.28), VL 0.63 (0.33). The volumes were: TA 0.40 (0.50), SOL 0.10 (0.14), BF 0.17 (0.19), VL 0.10 (0.17).
Conclusions: We could quantify receptive fields in all subjects. The areas are associated with much less variability than the volumes. This method is the first one that allowed a quantification of normal values of receptive fields in humans. The method has important potential applications in research to explore aspects of central plasticity in patients. Furthermore, it may be utilized as a diagnostic tool for central hypersensitivity.
dependent on a known consensus motif since a mutation affecting this sequence abolished the down-regulatory effect of Nedd4-2. Co-transfection of |l-subunits showed an opposite effect as they increased the INa for |l by ~165% (n = 22, ***p < 0.001); for |l2 by ~ 55% (n = 22, **p < 0.001).

**Conclusion:** Nedd4-2 and beta subunits have opposite effects in terms of regulating the amount of Nav1.7 at the cell surface thus modifying the excitability of these cells.

**Perspectives:** We need to confirm in vivo these preliminary results combining experimental pain animal models together with knock-out mice for these two genes in order to correlate the cell surface modulation of Nav1.7 with differences in pain sensitivity.

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**Ultrasound imaging of the nerves supplying the cervical zygapophysial joint – a descriptive study**

**Siegenthaler A, Curatolo M, Eichenberger U**

**Universitätssklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie, Inselspital Bern**

**Background:** The cervical zygapophysial joints are a common source of chronic neck pain. Diagnostic blocks and radiofrequency neurotomy of the nerves that supply the joints are validated tools in the diagnosis and therapy of zygapophysial joint pain, respectively. These interventions are typically performed with fluoroscopic needle guidance. However, the actual target, i.e. the nerve, remains invisible. Ultrasound imaging could offer new opportunities, with this technique being increasingly used in regional anaesthesia and pain therapy. We previously described an excellent sonographic visualisation of the third occipital nerve that supplies the C2-3 joint in healthy volunteers (Eichenberger et al, Anesthesiology 2008). However, the visibility of the remaining smaller nerves that supply the zygapophysial joints (medial branches of the dorsal rami of the spinal nerves) has so far not been described, especially in an ordinary patient population suffering from chronic neck pain.

**Objectives:** To describe the sonographic visibility of all the nerves supplying the cervical zygapophysial joints in a patient population suffering from chronic neck pain.

**Methods:** In this preliminary analysis, data from 27 consecutive patients with chronic neck pain who were treated in our pain clinic were included. Ultrasound imaging of the cervical zygapophysial joint region was performed in a longitudinal plane through the articular pillars. The ease of identification of each nerve (third occipital nerve and medial branches of the dorsal rami of the spinal nerves) was categorized as “good”, “difﬁcult but visible” or “impossible”.

**Results:**

- **Third occipital nerve:** 21/27 good, 4/27 difficult, 2/27 impossible.
- **Medial branch C3:** 18/27 good, 4/27 difficult, 5/27 impossible.
- **Medial branch C4:** 20/27 good, 4/27 difficult, 3/27 impossible.
- **Medial branch C5:** 17/27 good, 6/27 difficult, 4/27 impossible.
- **Medial branch C6:** 16/27 good, 4/27 difficult, 7/27 impossible.
- **Medial branch C7:** 18/27 good, 3/27 difficult, 6/27 impossible.

**Conclusions:** With the exception of the medial branch C7, the nerves supplying the zygapophysial joint pain can be visualized in the vast majority of cases. Ultrasound imaging could provide an additional or an alternative tool in the performance of diagnostic or therapeutic interventions on these nerves in patients with cervical zygapophysial joint pain.

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**The effect of magnesium sulphate on the time course of rocuronium induced neuromuscular block – a randomized electrophysiological study**

**C. Czarnetzki, C. Lysakowski, N. Elia, L. Dumont, E. Tassonyi, MR. Tramèr**

**Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève**

**Background and goal:** It has been claimed that pre-treatment with magnesium sulphate (Mg) has no impact on the speed of onset of rocuronium-induced neuromuscular block [1]. The aim of our study was to verify this assumption.

**Methods:** Patients ASA I to II were randomly allocated to one of two groups: (1) Pre-treatment with an IV infusion (15 min) of 60 mg kg⁻¹ of Mg. (2) An identical volume of saline. After induction (propofol, sufentanil), recording of neuromuscular transmission was commenced (TOF-watch SX accelerometerograph™) with TOF stimulation at the wrist every 15 seconds. After obtaining stable recordings, rocuronium 0.6 mg kg⁻¹ was administered and patients were intubated when fully curarized.

**Results:** Sixty adults were included.

**Conclusion:** Pre-treatment with Mg significantly shortens onset time and prolongs the early, but not late, recovery period of rocuronium-induced neuromuscular block.


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**Prospective randomized controlled multi-centre trial on cuffed versus uncuffed tracheal tubes in small children**

**Weiss M, Dullenkopp A, Fischer JE, Schmitz A, Keller C, Gerber AC**

**1Department of Anaesthesia, University Children’s Hospital Zurich, Switzerland; 2Mannheim Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany and 3Department of Anaesthesia, Schuthens Clinic, Zurich, Switzerland**

**Background:** Cuffed tubes have so far not been used routinely in children because of fear of airway damage [1]. The aim of this study was to compare tube exchange rate and post-intubation morbidity when using cuffed versus uncuffed tubes in small children.

**Methods:** Patients aged from birth to <5 years requiring general anaesthesia and tracheal intubation were included in 24 European paediatric anaesthesia units. Cuffed tubes (Microcuff PET™) were selected as follows: ID (mm) 3.0: 0 (<3 kg) – 8 months / ID 3.5: 8–18 months / ID 4.0: 18–36 months / ID 4.5: 36–60 months. Uncuffed tubes sizes (Mallinckrodt®, Portex®, Rüsch®, Sheridan®) were selected according to local institutional guidelines. The number of tube exchanges to find an appropriate tube with a small air leak at airway pressure of 20 cmH₂O allowing satisfactory ventilation, was noted.

**Minimal cuff pressure required to seal the airway was noted. Cuff pressure was monitored and limited with a pressure release valve at 20 cmH₂O. Post-extubation stridor was recorded by an independent assessor. Data are presented as mean±SDs and were compared using T-Test and chi-squared analysis (p <0.05).**

**Results:** 2249 children were studied (1119/1130 cuffed/uncuffed tubes). Children age’s was 1.93 ± 1.48 yrs in the cuffed and 1.86 ± 1.45 yrs in the uncuffed study group (p = 0.31). Tube exchange rate was 2.1 % in the cuffed and 29.5% in the uncuffed study group (p = 0.0001, risk ratio 0.07, 95% CI 0.045–0.10). Post-extubation stridor was noted in 4.3% in the cuffed and in 4.8% in the uncuffed study group (p = 0.16, risk ratio 0.93, 95% CI 0.64–1.36). Minimal cuff pressure to seal the trachea was 10.6 ± 4.3 cmH₂O.

**Conclusion:** This large prospective randomized controlled multi-centre trial demonstrates that the Microcuff PET™ can be used in children without increased post-intubation morbidity. Minimal tube exchange rate and a reliable sealed airway at cuff pressures of ≤ 20 cmH₂O are the main benefits compared to uncuffed tracheal tubes.

suffered from PONV as compared with 38%, 24%, and 12% receiving dexamethasone 0.05, 0.15, or 0.5 mg/kg, respectively [P for linear trend, <0.001]. Children receiving any dose of dexamethasone received significantly less ibuprofen during the first 24 hours. Blood glucose and infection rates were not different among groups. There were 26 postoperative bleedings in 22 children; 15 children (68.2% of those bleeding) had the 1st episode diagnosed later than the 1st postoperative day. Four percent of the children receiving placebo had at least one bleeding episode as compared with 11%, 4%, and 24% receiving dexamethasone 0.05, 0.15, or 0.5 mg/kg, respectively [P for linear trend, 0.01]. The highest dose of dexamethasone was associated with the highest risk of bleeding (adjusted OR, 7.06 [95% CI, 1.34 to 37.1]; P = 0.021). Eight children had to undergo emergency re-operation due to bleeding; all had received dexamethasone, and 4 of those had received the highest dose (compared with placebo, P = 0.05).

Conclusions: In children undergoing tonsillectomy, dexamethasone decreased the risk of PONV dose-dependently, but was associated with an increased risk of postoperative bleeding although these children received significantly less ibuprofen for postoperative analgesia.

Effect of intravenous lidocaine on laryngeal responses in children anesthetized with sevoflurane
T.O. Erb, B. von Ungern-Sternberg, K. Keller, F.J. Frei
Division of Anaesthesia, University Children’s Hospital, Basel, CH

Introduction: Laryngospasm (LS) is common and often more severe in children than in adults. In order to reduce the incidence of LS, the administration of lidocaine has been advocated [1]. However, its effectiveness in preventing LS is controversial [2]. The purpose of the study was to evaluate respiratory responses to laryngeal irritation in a clinical model after administration of lidocaine.

Methods: 40 children (3-7 years, 12-35 kg) scheduled for elective procedures. Premedication: Midazolam 0.3 mg/kg. Inhalational induction with sevoflurane 8%, insertion of LMA, maintenance of anaesthesia with 2.5% sevoflurane. Insertion of a fiberoptic bronchoscope via LMA, placing the tip above the glottic opening. Simultaneous recording of video images and respiratory parameters.

The laryngeal mucosa of each patient was stimulated 3 times: i) before, ii) 2 min, and iii) 10 min after i.v. administration of 2 mg/kg lidocaine by spraying the vocal cords with 0.25 ml of distilled water. Evoked responses were classified into 4 categories [3] by a blinded reviewer: A) complete closure of the glottis lasting >10s on the video images, B) expiration reflex, C) cough reflex, D) spasmodic panting.

Results:

Conclusions: The results of the present study demonstrated that the intravenous administration of 2 mg/kg lidocaine resulted in a significant reduction of the incidence of laryngospasm. While this effect was traceable 2 min after the administration, this effect was already blunted after 10 min.


Comparison of prothrombin time values of standard laboratory test and two point-of-care devices
Universitätsklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie, Inselspital Bern

Background: Venous access may be challenging in children, and the required amount of blood might be large, especially with studies in very small infants. The time needed to get results from standard laboratory methods is about 45 minutes but only three minutes using Point-of-Care devices. The aim of the study was to compare the standard laboratory prothrombin time test as “the gold standard” with two Point-of-Care methods for prothrombin time to asses the accuracy. That minimizes the difficulty in blood sampling and the amount of blood because the Point-of-Care tests can be performed from 10 µl of capillary blood.

Methods: We compared PT measured with CoaChek XS Plus® (Roche Diagnostics, Basel, Switzerland), CoaLine® (DiaLine, USA), and the standard laboratory test of plasma PT in pediatric ICU patients. Blood samples were drawn either from arterial or venous lines, or by direct venipuncture. The same blood sample was tested with all three methods in random order.

Results: from the first 28 pediatric ICU patients with a total of 71 measurements including 11 boys, 17 girls with median age of 4.2 months (range 3 days to 12 years), median height 53 cm (36-170 cm), median weight 4000 gr (1020 g to 57 kg). Direct comparison of the point-of-care devices to the standard laboratory test showed a correlation of r = 0.82 for CoaChek and r = 0.71 for CoaLine. Bland-Altman analyses showed a mean difference of -0.65 ± 13.0 SD (CoaChek) and 6.08 ± 22.8 (CoaLine) to the standard test. Standard laboratory test and CoaChek failed each once to provide a result but CoaLine 7 times.

Conclusion: Capillary blood Prothrombin Time measurement with the Point-of-Care device CoaChek XS Plus® is comparable to the gold standard laboratory measurements in pediatric ICU patients. The CoaLine was clinically not satisfying.

The Point-of-Care tool CoaChek XS Plus® to measure capillary prothrombin time might reduces difficulties of venous blood sampling and the need for direct venipuncture substantially in children because capillary blood can be used for coagulation measurements.

Postoperative troponin T release is associated with 12-month mortality after on-pump cardiac surgery in adults
1Anaesthesiology Department, University Hospital Basel; 2Division of cardiac surgery, University Hospital Basel

Introduction: Postoperative events are often neglected in risk stratification for patients undergoing cardiac surgery. We hypothesised that postoperative troponin T (TnT) release is associated with 12-month mortality after cardiac surgery.

Methods: After approval by the ethical committee and with patients’ written informed consent, we prospectively assessed the 12-month outcome of consecutive patients undergoing cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass at our institution from January 2005 to September 2006. TnT values on the 1st and 2nd postoperative morning were confirmed by the family physician or by hospitalisation charts. We calculated the TnT cut-off value by ROC-curve, and classified patients in 3 risk groups by Euroscore: low (Euroscore 0-2), moderate (Euroscore 3-5), and high risk (Euroscore >6). The crude odds ratio (OR) between TnT release and 12-month mortality was adjusted for risk groups by logistic regression.

Results: We included 764 patients; mean age was 66 years (±11.7); 73% were men. Isolated CABG was performed in 54%, valvular surgery in 29%, combined valvar and coronary surgery in 12%, and other procedures in 5%. Of the patients 21% were at low, 35% at moderate, and 44% at high risk. In the 723 patients (94.6%) with complete 12-month follow-up, we registered 56 deaths (7.7%). At the TnT cut-off level 0.80 µg/L, the crude OR (95% confidence interval) for the association between TnT and 12-month mortality was 3.75 (2.03-6.92). After adjustment for the Euroscore, the OR between postoperative TnT release and 12-month mortality was 3.55 (1.91-6.64).

Discussion: Troponin T release after cardiac surgery was a strong and independent predictor of 12-month mortality in adults undergoing cardiac surgery.
Elevated BNP values do not allow for diagnosing cardiac dysfunction in young subjects

J. Kaspec, D. Bulliger, M. Filipovic, M. Seeberger
University of Zurich

Introduction: Elevated brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) levels are used for the diagnosis of systolic and/or diastolic cardiac dysfunction in subjects >45 years [1]. Cut-off levels are established, however, few data are available in younger subjects. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the range of BNP values in healthy young subjects.

Methods: Sixty-one subjects (41 men and 20 women, aged 18–48 years) free from cardiovascular or relevant concomitant disease and medication were studied. BNP was measured in awake, unmedicated subjects immediately before the transesophageal echocardiographic study was performed. Mean arterial pressure (MAP), heart rate (HR), and the following echocardiographic parameters were analysed: fractional area change (FAC), early diastolic mitral annulus velocities (E') obtained by pulsed-wave (PW) Doppler tissue imaging, transmural early peak flow velocities (E) obtained by PW Doppler, and the E/E' ratio. BNP was reevaluated after one hour.

Results: BNP values ranged from <15 to 388 ng/l. Elevated BNP values (>50 ng/l) were found in 20 subjects (33%); BNP levels suggestive for heart failure (>100 ng/l) were found in four subjects (7%). Echocardiographic signs of impaired systolic (FAC <45%) and diastolic left ventricular function (E' <8.5 cm/s or E/E' >8) were present in one and two subjects, respectively; all of them had BNP values <50 ng/l. There was no correlation between BNP levels and FAC or E/E' (R = 0.01, p = 0.16), or E/E' (R = –0.06, p = 0.66). There were no differences in echocardiographic parameters between the groups with normal and elevated BNP levels (Mann-Whitney U test). Variation of BNP before and after echocardiography ranged from 0.0 to 15.5 ng/l.

Discussion: A high percentage of healthy young subjects had elevated BNP levels if cut-off values previously defined in an older subject population are applied. Due to a low pretest probability, BNP cut-off levels found in older subjects are not useful for diagnosing heart failure in this young population without a history of cardiac disease.


Effect of different HES preparations (HES 130/0.42; HES 200/0.5) on renal function during sepsis

Moritz Wittlinger1,2, Elisena De Conno1,2, Thomas Neff1, Martin Schläpfer1,2, Donat R. Spahn1, Beatrice Beck-Schimmer1,2
1Institute of Anesthesiology, University Hospital Zurich; 2Institute of Physiology and Zurich Center for Integrative Human Physiology, University of Zurich

Background and goal of study: Acute renal failure is a frequent complication of sepsis. Hydroxethyl starches (HES) are widely used in the treatment of such patients [1]. Here we investigated the effect of HES on renal function during sepsis remains controversial. In this vitro study has been performed to assess possible effects of HES 130/0.42 and HES 200/0.5 on activated proximal tubular epithelial cells.

Materials and methods: HK-2 cells (human proximal tubular epithelial) were stimulated with tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNFα) in the presence or absence of HES 130/0.42 or 200/0.5 (Braun, Germany) to mimic a septic condition requiring fluid replacement. After 4, 10, and 18 h of incubation monocye chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), a key chemoattractant for neutrophils and macrophages, was determined, and colorimetric viability- and cytotoxicity assays were performed.

Results: MCP-1 expression was enhanced by 100% upon TNFα exposure. In the presence of 2% and 4% HES 200/0.5 during a stimulation time of 10 h and 18 h, MCP-1 concentration was decreased between 26% and 56% (p < 0.05). TNFα stimulation resulted in a significant decrease of viability by 53–63%, while viability decreased by only 32–40% in co-incubation with HES 130/0.42 (p < 0.005), and remained even less affected by TNFα in the presence of HES 200/0.5 (p < 0.001). TNFα-induced cell death rate was attenuated in the presence of HES 200/0.5 (p < 0.05).

Discussion and conclusion: Data of this in vitro study show that both HES products attenuate cell injury upon inflammatory stimulation. Protective effect was more pronounced in the HES 200/0.5 group compared to HES 130/0.42, pointing to a biological difference between both HES types.


Anti-inflammatory effect of ropivacaine in endotoxin-injured alveolar epithelial cells: elucidation of cellular signalling

M. Schläpfer1,2, B. Roth Z Graggert3, S. Blumenthal4, A. Borget1, D. R. Spahn1, B. Beck-Schimmer1
1Department of Anaesthesiology, University Hospital Zurich; 2Institute of Physiology, University Zurich Inche; 3Department of Anaesthesiology, Orthopedic University Clinic Zurich Balglyn, Zurich, Switzerland

Introduction: Ropivacaine, a new local anaesthetic, exerts anti-inflammatory actions in the endotoxin-induced lung injury model. We investigated the intracellular signalling pathway leading to decreased inflammation after ropivacaine administration in an in vitro model of acute lung injury. We focused on protein kinase C (PKC) and the prosurvival kinases ERK and Akt, the latter two presumably being involved in the NFκB-pathway leading to cytoprotection.

Methods: Monolayers of alveolar epithelial cells (AEC) were stimulated with 20 μg/ml lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and co-incubated with ropivacaine in a final concentration of 1 μM (controls exposed to phosphate-buffered saline, PBS). Four different groups were designed: PBS/PBS, PBS/ropivacaine, LPS/PBS and LPS/ropivacaine. LPS and ropivacaine were added at the same time to the cells for 4 h. PKC activity was assessed using a PeptTag assay for non-radioactive detection. Activation of ERK and Akt via phosphorylation was determined by Western blotting, using a monoclonal anti-phospho-ERK (pERK) and a polyclonal anti-phospho-Akt (pAkt) antibody. Densitometry was performed, using 3 different experimental setups.

Results: Assessing PKC activity showed that this intracellular signalling pathway does not seem to be involved in ropivacaine-induced AEC protection, pERK levels, however, were significantly increased by 40% in the LPS/ropivacaine group in comparison to the LPS/PBS group (p <0.05). No conclusive data were found for pAkt.

Conclusion: Our study shows for the first time that the anti-inflammatory and cytoprotective effect of ropivacaine might be mediated through phosphorylation of ERK.

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Postconditioning with the volatile anaesthetic sevoflurane in an in vivo model of LPS-induced lung injury

Stefanie Voigtsgerber1,2, Robert A. Lachmann1,2, Anik C. Leutert1,2, Donat R. Spahn1, Beatrice Beck-Schimmer1
1Institute of Anesthesiology, University Hospital Zurich; 2Institute of Physiology and Zurich Center for Integrative Human Physiology, University of Zurich

Objective: Acute lung injury (ALI) is a common complication in critical care patients. Several studies suggest that volatile anaesthetics such as sevoflurane provide immunomodulating effects. Prior to this study showed a significant reduction of inflammatory mediators by postconditioning with sevoflurane in vitro. The aim of the present study was to determine the immunomodulating effects of sevoflurane in an in vivo model of LPS-induced lung injury and to compare it to propofol which is a commonly used intravenous sedative in critical illness patients.

Methods: Rats were anaesthetized, tracheotomized and mechanically ventilated. Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) was administered intratracheally. Propofol was infused intravenously to maintain anaesthesia. Two hours after the onset of the ALI general anaesthesia was continued with either sevoflurane or propofol for further 4 hours. Arterial blood gases were measured every 2 hours. After six hours animals were sacrificed and bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) was performed. Total cell count, cytokine-induced neutrophil chemoattractant-1 (CINC-1), monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) were analysed in BAL fluid. Experiments were repeated six times for every group.

Results: A significant improvement of PaO2/FiO2 was shown with sevoflurane postconditioning (275 ± 47) compared to a sedation with propofol (87 ± 12) [in mm Hg ± SEM]. Total cell count was a measure of effector cell recruitment with lung destruction was significant lower in the sevoflurane-LPS group (13.64 ± 3.16) compared to the propofol-LPS group (30.64 ± 3.16) [in 106/ml ± SEM]. Furthermore expression of MCP-1 in BALF was decreased by 53% (p < 0.05) and of CINC-1 by 29% by postconditioning with sevoflurane.

Conclusions: Therefore we conclude that anaesthetic postconditioning with sevoflurane has an immunomodulating organoprotective effect in the respiratory compartment in an in vivo model of ALI.

In vitro investigation on the sevoflurane effect on active transport of sodium, potassium-adenosine triphosphatase (Na+/K+-ATPase) and its possible relevance to the human airway. 

Arik G. Leuteniger, Stefanie Voigtsberger, Birgit V. Roth-Zagragni, Livia Reyes, Christo Boyt, Donat R. Spahn, Beatrice Beck-Schimmer

University of Zurich, Switzerland

Background: In the present study the effect of sevoflurane on the activity of Na+/K+-ATPase was investigated in parallel with the respiratory parameters in simulated difficult airway in anesthetized patients.

Methods: In vitro investigation on the effect of sevoflurane on Na+/K+-ATPase in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-exposed AECII and the effect of the nowadays commonly used volatile anaesthetic sevoflurane.

Results: The experiments demonstrated that volatile anaesthetics are capable of affecting the activity of Na+/K+-ATPase. The effect was completely reversible in the presence of sevoflurane.

Conclusions: Our study disproves most likely the so far valid assumption that volatile anaesthetics are capable of affecting the activity of Na+/K+-ATPase in AECII. Therefore, application of sevoflurane might be beneficial in the situation of ARDS, improving alveolar fluid clearance.


Comparison of Laryngeal Mask Supreme™ and i-gel™ in simulated difficult airway in anesthetized patients

L. Thaller, M. Kleine-Brüggenjohann, N. Unwyley, C. Luget, D. Kaiser, R. Greif

Universitätssklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie, Innsbruck, Bern

Background: The LMA Supreme™ (LMS) and the i-gel™ are both newly developed supraglottic single use airway devices. Both incorporate a drain tube, but the LMS does not enable insertion of a tracheal tube. We evaluated the performance of both devices in a prospective cross-over RCT in a simulated difficult airway scenario using an extrication collar to limit both mouth opening and neck movement.

Methods: With IRB approval and informed consent we studied 37 patients undergoing elective inpatient surgery at the time of surgery. Outcomes were insertion time, overall success rate, manipulations required, tidal volume reached, airway leak pressure, ability to pass a gastric tube, and laryngeal view (glottis totally visible 26 i-gel vs. 21 LMS, partially visible 4 i-gel vs. 6 LMS, only epiglottis visible 3 i-gel vs. 7 LMS, no laryngeal view 26 i-gel vs. 21 LMS) and showed less epiglottic down folding (9 of 35 LMS vs. 2 of 33 i-gel, p = 0.046), less epiglottic down folding (9 of 35 LMS vs. 2 of 33 i-gel, p = 0.046), less epiglottic down folding (9 of 35 LMS vs. 2 of 33 i-gel, p = 0.046), airway leak pressure (23.2 ± 7.7 cm H2O LMS vs. 27.3 ± 7.9 cm H2O i-gel, p = 0.458), and ability to pass a gastric catheter (one failure each). The i-gel enabled better fiberoptic laryngeal view, fiberoptic down folding, and epiglottic down folding compared to the LMS.

Conclusion: In our preliminary 37 patients both devices had similar insertion success and clinical performance except a faster insertion time of 12.4 ± 5.1 sec for the LMS vs. 17.2 ± 9.4 sec for the i-gel (p = 0.421). They did not differ in tidal volume with 17 cm H2O pressure. The water follows to maintain isosmorol conditions. There is significant evidence that fluid clearance is impaired in patients with lung injury [1]. The above studies have shown that volatile anaesthetics like halothane impair activity of Na/K-ATPase and sodium channels [2].

Objective: Aim of our study was to evaluate the activity of Na/K-ATPase in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-exposed AECII and the effect of the nowadays commonly used volatile anaesthetic sevoflurane.

Methods: Monolayer of AECII were stimulated with 20 µg/ml LPS for 8 h and exposed to either a CO2 air mixture with sevoflurane 2.2 volume% or to CO2 air mixture only. Activity of the Na/K-ATPase was assessed by 3Hrubidum influx studies [3].

Results: First results suggest that LPS reduces activity of the Na/K-ATPase. This effect was completely reversible in the presence of sevoflurane.

Conclusions: Our study disproves most likely the so far valid assumption that volatile anaesthetics are capable of affecting the activity of Na/K-ATPase in AECII. Therefore, application of sevoflurane might be beneficial in the situation of ARDS, improving alveolar fluid clearance.


Real-time visualization of ultrasound-guided retrobulbar blockade: a CT-controlled cadaver study

C. Luget, U. Eichenberger, B. Moriggl, R. Greif

Universitätssklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie, Innsbruck, Bern

Introduction: Retrobulbar regional anesthesia, first described in 1969, enables eye surgery in awake patients. The standard blind technique introduces the needle laterally of the eye globe into the muscle cone as a substitute for local anesthetic. Therefore, we developed a new ultrasound guided technique using local anesthetics.

Methods: In total, 20 blocks in 10 embalmed human cadavers were performed. After restoring the normal intraocular pressure by injecting isotonic saline into the globe, a transverse sonogram showing the eyeball as well as the optic nerve was obtained. Using a small curved array transducer and a long axis approach a 22G short bevel needle was introduced with ultrasound guidance. Under vision the needle passed the equator of the eye globe and was introduced until the needle tip was seen 2 mm away from the optic nerve. At this point 2 mL of diluted contrast dye was injected as a substitute for local anesthetic.

Conclusion: The CT scans showed the distribution of the contrast dye in the muscle cone and behind the posterior sclera in all except of one case which had a very difficult needle placement. Contrast dye was found inside the optic nerve or inside the eyeball. In one case there was an additional trace of contrast dye behind the orbit.

Real-time visualization of ultrasound-guided retrobulbar blockade: a CT-controlled cadaver study

C. Luget, U. Eichenberger, B. Moriggl, R. Greif

Universitätssklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie, Innsbruck, Bern
Randomized controlled comparison of volumes using an ED95 nerve dimension based method for ultrasound-guided axillary plexus block


Introduction: Axillary plexus blockade is the most popular regional anesthetic technique for the upper limb. Usually up to 50 ml of local anesthetic (LA) are used. Previous studies showed a significant reduction of LA by using ultrasound-guidance. With this study we tested extremely low volumes of LA using ultrasound-guidance.

Methods: A prospective, randomized, and double blinded crossover study was performed in 10 volunteers. Following ultrasound measurement and summation of the cross section areas of the radial, median and ulnar nerves in the axilla, two volumes of 1% mepivacaine were applied on two different days. Volume calculation: median and ulnar nerves in the axilla, two volumes of 1% mepivacaine were applied on two different days. Volume calculation: ‘high volume’ (HV): 0.25 ml/mm²; ‘low volume’ (LV): 0.11 ml/mm². HV reflects our daily clinical practice; LV reflects the ED95 volume for a peripheral nerve evaluated in a preceding study. A Pinprick test in the final placement of catheters introduced with the standard technique.

Results: HV: 9.4–20.3 ml (mean: 14.8 ml); LV: 2.7–5.5 ml (mean: 4.0 ml). For HV, success rates of the single nerves were 97% (23/24) with HV and 80% (24/30) with LV, respectively, 4 of the 6 failures with HV were caused by insufficient block of the median nerve. There were no statistical significant differences between HV and LV for mean sensory onset times and mean duration of block except for the median nerve. Conclusion: Successful ultrasound-guided axillary plexus block is possible using extreme low volumes of LA. Our HV success rate of 90% is comparable with results in the literature using none ultrasound-guided techniques and more than 10 times more volume of LA. Further studies are necessary to determine the minimal volume of LA needed to achieve a near 100% success rate using ultrasound-guidance. Neurosurgical and Intensive Care Medicine, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.


Ultrasound-guided paravertebral puncture and catheter insertion: an imaging study in human cadavers

C. Lyet, U. Eichenberger, R. Greil, B. Moriggi

Introduction: Paravertebral regional anesthesia used to treat pain after thoracic, cardiac, breast and upper abdominal surgery avoids epidural space puncture to reduce possible thoracic medulla injury. In 1979 Eason and Wyatt described the still used technically challenging landmark approach. The loss of resistance by passing through the very small superior costo-transverse ligament is often missed while the risk of pleural puncture remains. To avoid these difficulties we intended to develop an ultrasound-guided puncture and catheter placement technique to access the paravertebral space.

Methods: We performed 20 punctures and catheter placements on both sides of the vertebral column in 10 embalmed human cadavers. After anatomical studies in cadavers we aimed for a sonographic guided puncture with the final placement of catheters introduced with the standard technique. The needle tip was advanced under view through the superior costo-transverse ligament into the paravertebral space. Injection of 10 ml normal saline distended the space and enabled 5 cm of catheter insertion. After injection of 10 ml of contrast dye through the catheter, the spread of the dye was documented by means of 5 mm transverse CT scans.

Results: The CT-scan revealed a correct paravertebral spread of contrast in 11 of the 20 cases (55%). Out of the remaining 9 cases 1 catheter was found in the pleural space (5%), 6 catheters were found epidural (30%) and in 2 cases (10%) we detected prevertebral spread of contrast dye.

Conclusion: Ultrasound guidance kept the needle tip away from the pleura and the epidural space and allowed to reach the paravertebral space without problems, but the insertion of the catheter remained technically difficult. Furthermore in 45% of the cases, if advanced more than 5 cm, the catheter migrated not to the expected place (to the epidural space, pleural or anterior towards the mediastinum). Further studies are needed to optimize that approach and to observe the final placement of catheters introduced with the standard technique.

High incidence of non-routine events during standard anesthesia inductions: A prospective analysis of synchronized video and vital parameter recordings.

J. Wacker1, B. Kleeb1, B. Künzle2, E. Leisinger1, A. Kobler1, M. Kolbe2, T. Manser2, M. Burtscher2, D.R. Spahn1, G. Grote2

1Institute of Anesthesiology, University Hospital Zurich; 2Work and Organizational Psychology, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH, Zurich

Background: Non-routine events (NRE) are defined as “any event that is perceived by clinicians or skilled observers to deviate from ideal care” for a specific patient in a specific clinical situation [1]. In contrast to investigation of adverse events, NRE analysis is thought to be less affected by biases and more likely to identify latent conditions promoting active errors and patient injury [2]. NREs occurred in approximately 30% of cases in retrospective studies with mixed complexity [1–3]. To estimate the value of advanced NRE analysis, we aimed at prospectively determining incidence and types of NRE in routine anesthesia inductions in a tertiary teaching hospital operating suite.

Methods: We recorded teams during general anesthesia inductions with tracheal intubation (ASA I/II) for minor to intermediate surgical procedures. Combined cases with additional nerve block were excluded. Synchronized recordings of the anesthesia team (video), vital parameter, and ventilator data were obtained using a mobile setup. NREs were identified by experienced staff anesthesiologists using all three synchronized data sets in DVD format.

Results: In 25 anesthesia inductions, we found overall 238 NRE (minimum 3, maximum 16, mean 9.4, SD 3.8 per case). A basic typology was derived from main characteristic of events:

Cardiovascular response 57 events (24%); ventilation 37 (16%); drug administration 36 (15%); airway management 23 (10%); infection control 15 (6%); patient comfort 15 (6%), depth of anesthesia 10 (4%), others 43 (19%).

Conclusions: Unlike results from retrospective studies, our prospective analysis detected high incidence of NRE even in low risk cases. NRE analysis may facilitate process analysis and improve patient safety in anesthesia practice.

References:

Evaluation of the blood-saving Kaolin i-STAT ACT technique in paediatric cardiac anaesthesia

Ulmer F2, Bettex D1, Baulig W1, Bürki C1, Weiss M1

1Department of Paediatrics and 2Anaesthesia, University Children’s Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

Objective: To compare activated clotting time (ACT) values measured by the blood-saving Kaolin i-STAT ACT technique (2 x 45 μl) with those obtained from the widely used Medtronic ACT II device (2 x 0.5 ml) in children undergoing cardiac surgery (1).

Methods: In a prospective, observational clinical study, ACT values obtained from the i-STAT device (Kaolin) were compared with the Medtronic ACT II device in paediatric cardiac surgical patients. Samples were taken from the central venous catheter according to the clinical protocol and were pair-analyzed in both techniques before, during and after heparinisation for cardiopulmonary bypass. Data were compared using simple regression analysis, Bland-Altman analysis and student T-Test (p <0.05).

Results: 26 children aged from 0.01 to 10.2 yrs (median 0.6 yrs) undergoing cardiac surgery were studied. Values are Pearson’s r (n paired values), Bias/Precision.

Conclusion: Our preliminary data demonstrates that intra-rater reliability was similar in both techniques. However activated clotting time values obtained from the Kaolin i-STAT ACT did not agree with those obtained with the Medtronic ACT II. Further data are required to elucidate factors explaining the disagreement between the two techniques.

Monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 (MCP-1) induces pain related behavior and microglial activation in mice

M. R. Suter1,2, I. Decosterd2,3, R. R. Ji1
1Department of Anesthesiology, University Clinic Balgrist, Zürich; 2Department of Orthopedics, University Clinic Balgrist, Zürich

Background: Peripheral nerve injury is associated with structural reorganization of sensory afferent fibers in the central nervous system that may explain the development of allodynia in neuropathic pain syndromes. The dorsal horn of the spinal cord (DH) receives central projections of primary sensory neurons (PSNs) and is influenced by peripheral nerve injury. We investigated the remodeling of the central terminals of primary sensory neurons expressing parvalbumin (PV) following sciatic nerve axotomy.

Methods: PV central fibers in the spinal cord are visualized in double transgenic mice (TaumGFP/+PVCre/+). GFP (mGFP) restricted to PV+ neurons. Central fibers were quantified in TaumGFP/+ and PVCre/+ mice spinal sections 1, 3 and 6 weeks after sciatic nerve axotomy and compared to sham operated animals. GFP positive fibers were traced in Lamina I + IIo (distinguished by PKC gamma staining) and using Neurolucida software by an observer unaware of the treatment (axotomy or sham). RESULTS: The number of GFP positive fibers was significantly increased in Lamina I+IIo 3 and 6 weeks after axotomy compared to the sham operated group or contralateral side (p<0.01, n = 4 in each group). Similarly, total fiber length, number of varicosities, endings and nodes were different between axotomy and sham/contralateral injury side (p<0.01). Treatment with PV Cre/+ mice spinal sections 1, 3 and 6 weeks after sciatic nerve axotomy and compared to sham operated group or contralateral side (p<0.01). Our data confirm the sprouting of large myelinated afferent terminals into the area (lamina I and II) normally occupied by nociceptors. Taken together with previous anatomical and electrophysiological studies, our results demonstrate a structural rewiring in the spinal cord that may contribute to allodynia in neuropathic pain.

Polyneuropathic pain: Gene therapy as a tool to transduce nociceptors

Marie Petrin1, Choisin Towne2, Temuigui Berta1, Ahmed Beggah1, Patrick Aebischer2, Isabelle Decosterd1
1University Hospital Center and University of Lausanne (CHUV); 2Sanofi-Aventis Switzerland

Neuropathic pain is a consequence of nerve injury and is often refractory to conventional anti-nociceptive interventions. Gene therapy is a promising tool for the treatment of neuropathic pain by targeting the nociceptors, including the delivery of antisense oligonucleotides to reduce nociceptor function. This study investigated the use of adeno-associated virus (AAV) for the specific delivery of RNA interference (RNAi) to nociceptors.

Methods: TaumGFP/+PVCre/+ mice were used to visualize PV+ central fibers in the spinal cord. GFP afferent fibers predominantly in lamina I and IIo. Interestingly, intravenous delivery of rAAV2/6 resulted in transduction of PV+ neurons (28.1 ± 3.1% of the total number of L4 DRG neurons) compared to sham operated animals (3.5 ± 1.7%). Intraplantar injections of the deeper lamina of the spinal cord dorsal horn. We demonstrate that delivery route is a major factor influencing efficacy and specificity of nociceptor cell transduction. We are currently analyzing rAAV2/6 delivery into the subarachnoid space via intrathecal administration.

Continuous epicapsular ropivacaine 0.3% infusion after minimal invasive hip replacement. A prospective, randomised, double-blind study comparing the PAINfusor with morphine-PCA

M. D. Gasparac1, R. R. Ji2,3
1Pain Research Center, Department of Anesthesiology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115; 2Anesthesiology Pain Research Group, Anesthesiology Department, University Hospital Center and University of Lausanne, CH-1011 Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 (MCP-1 or CCL2) is one of the most studied chemokines in the pain field. Microglia is activated after nerve injury and expresses the receptor for MCP1 (CCR2).

Methods: We studied the effect of intraarticular MCP1 injection (100 ng/day over 3 days) on pain related behavior (paw withdrawal to heat and mechanical stimulus) and on microglial activation (immunofluorescence) in mice. We measured MCP1 expression in the spinal cord after spinal nerve ligation (SNL) with ELISA and immunofluorescence.

Results: MCP1 injection induced pain related behavior, mechanical allodynia and heat hyperalgesia from day 1 to 3. It also produced mild but significant (p < 0.05) microglial activation as shown by increase in Iba1 staining (microglial marker). We observed an upregulation of MCP1 after nerve injury peaking at day 3 post SNL. MCP1 colocalizes with an astrocytic marker.

Conclusion: MCP1 is upregulated at nerve injury in spinal cord astrocytes. MCP1 injection activates microglia and induces pain related behavior. Whether this is an example of astrocyte-microglia interaction after nerve injury still need to be examined.

Peripheral nerve injury is associated with a reorganization of the central terminals of primary sensory neurons expressing parvalbumin

A. Axix, A. T. Beggah, T. Berta, A. Fries, M. Perini, S. Arber, C. J. Woolf, I. Decosterd
CHUV, UNIL, Biozentrum, Harvard Medical School

Background: Peripheral nerve injury is associated with structural reorganization of sensory afferent fibers in the central nervous system that may explain the development of allodynia in neuropathic pain syndromes. The dorsal horn of the spinal cord (DH) receives central projections of the primary sensory neurons of the sural nerve muscle, ii) the sciatic nerve, iii) subcutaneously in the hindpaw, iv) intravenously via the tail vein and v) intrathecally. GFP expression was confirmed in DRG and spinal cord three weeks following injection using anatomical and molecular markers. We observed GFP-positive cells in the DRG following all administration routes. Highest GFP expression was achieved by injection into the sciatic nerve (28.1 ± 3.1% of the total number of L4 DRG neurons) compared to subcutaneous (3.5 ± 1.7%) and intramuscular injections (1.6 ± 0.94%). More than ninety percent of GFP positive cells were less than 500 μm3 (corresponding to nociceptors) with only three percent larger than 500 μm3 (corresponding to mecano- and proprioceptive sensory neurons). These small cells colocalized with the transient receptor potential vanilloid type 1 (TRPV1), Substance P and isolectin B4. This transduction pattern was consistent in the spinal cord with GFP afferent fibers predominantly in lamina I and II. Interestingly, intravenous delivery of rAAV2/6 resulted in transduction of predominantly large non-nociceptive neurons (>500 μm3) with corresponding projections into the deeper lamina of the spinal cord dorsal horn. We demonstrate that delivery route is a major factor influencing efficacy and specificity of nociceptor cell transduction. We are currently analyzing rAAV2/6 delivery into the subarachnoid space via intrathecal administration.

Nerve conduction blockade differentially affects microglial activation after peripheral nerve injury

M.R. Suter1,2, I. Decosterd2,3, R.R. Ji1
1Pain Research Center, Department of Anesthesiology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02115; 2Anesthesiology Pain Research Group, Anesthesiology Department, University Hospital Center and University of Lausanne CH-1011 Lausanne, Switzerland; 3Department of Cell Biology and Morphology (DBCM), Faculty of Medicine, Lausanne University, CH-1005 Lausanne, Switzerland

Background: Microglial activation participates in the development of chronic pain following nerve injury. This could explain why our current...
The analgesic properties of propofol and its solvent: a double-blind, randomized crossover trial

**Methods:**
- **Aim of investigation:** To investigate the analgesic properties of propofol and its solvent.
- **Method:** A double-blind, randomized crossover trial.

**Results:**
- Propofol significantly decreased pain scores and areas of hyperalgesia during administration, as compared to saline.
- Mean (SD) of VAS changes after saline was 2.9 (2.1) and 4.1 (2.3), respectively.
- Mean (SD) of VAS changes after saline was 2.9 (2.1) and 4.1 (2.3), respectively.

**Conclusion:** Muscle pain induced by injection of NGF is not abolished by local anesthetic infiltration of the muscle.

Is it possible to identify muscles as primary source of pain by intramuscular injection of ropivacaine?

**Methods:**
- NGF was infused in the left and right supraspinatus muscle of 11 healthy subjects.
- Ultrasound-guided injection of ropivacaine 0.25% or saline into the left or right supraspinatus muscle in a randomized double-blind manner.

**Results:**
- Mean (SD) of VAS changes after saline and ropivacaine injections were evaluated.

**Conclusion:**
- The validity of intramuscular injections of local anesthetics for the diagnosis of primary muscle pain.

Tolerance of laryngoscopy isoboles as reference for alfentanil and propofol dosing in gynecologic surgery

**Methods:**
- We re-evaluated the dosing history of 69 patients anesthetized with propofol and fentanyl for gynecologic surgery.
- We tested the hypothesis that muscle pain, as induced experimentally in healthy volunteers by Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), can be abolished by intramuscular injection of ropivacaine.

**Results:**
- Tolerance of laryngoscopy isoboles as reference for alfentanil and propofol dosing in gynecologic surgery.
Renin (PRA) 6.9 ± 10.3 18.9 ± 22 9.0 ± 15.0 6.0 ± 10.2 0.03
Serum lactate 1.4 ± 0.7 2.7 ± 1.1 2.6 ± 1.8 0.9 ± 0.4 0.02
SVRi 1577 ± 666 2400 ± 954 1145 ± 437 1548 ± 378 0.03
Cardiac Index 4.0 ± 1.2 2.5 ± 0.8 4.6 ± 1.4 4.2 ± 0.7 0.02

Hemodynamic assessment and blood sampling were performed one committee and 30 patients (25 males; 5 females), median age 56 who had LT at our institution.

Renal dysfunction during the perioperative period in 30 consecutive patients on renal function. To evaluate the consequences of LT on renal function. is characterized by sodium retention and impaired free-water excretion. During liver transplantation (LT), the anephric phase is the key event for anesthesiologist as neurohumoral and hemodynamic homeostasis are modulated with possible consequences on renal function. To evaluate the consequences of LT on renal function during the perioperative period in 30 consecutive patients who had LT at our institution. The study protocol was approved by our institutional ethics committee and 30 patients (25 males; 5 females), median age 56 [23–65] were prospectively included after written informed consent. Hemodynamic assessment and blood sampling were performed one hour after anesthesia induction, during the anephric phase, and 2 and 24 hours after liver reperfusion. Six months later, patients were reassessed for liver and renal function. Hemodynamic parameters and renal function are shown in table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre anephric phase</th>
<th>Anephric phase</th>
<th>2H after reperfusion</th>
<th>24H after reperfusion</th>
<th>Follow-up at 6 months</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Index</td>
<td>4.9 ± 1.2</td>
<td>2.5 ± 0.8</td>
<td>4.6 ± 1.4</td>
<td>4.2 ± 0.7</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVR</td>
<td>1577 ± 666</td>
<td>2400 ± 954</td>
<td>1145 ± 437</td>
<td>1548 ± 378</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVR</td>
<td>123 ± 59</td>
<td>182 ± 80</td>
<td>141 ± 71</td>
<td>144 ± 82</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Svo2</td>
<td>89 ± 12</td>
<td>82 ± 10</td>
<td>88 ± 13</td>
<td>81 ± 15</td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum lactate</td>
<td>1.4 ± 0.7</td>
<td>2.7 ± 1.1</td>
<td>2.6 ± 1.8</td>
<td>0.9 ± 0.4</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renin (PRA)</td>
<td>6.9 ± 10.3</td>
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<td>6.0 ± 10.2</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course of base excess, lactate concentration and ScvO2 during repeated prolonged deep propofol sedation in children undergoing proton radiation therapy Bühler S1, Frei M1, Frühau M1, Mauch J1, Feurer R1, Immossi S1, Timmermann B1, Hug E1, Weiss M1
1) Department of Anesthesia, University Children's Hospital Zurich, Switzerland, and 2) Proton Radiation Center, Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

Background: Long-term administration of propofol in children is considered to evoke propofol-intolerance syndrome with severe metabolic acidosis, increased level of serum lactate and fall in cardiac output [1–3]. The aim of this study was to evaluate the course of acid base state, serum lactate concentration and ScvO2 in paediatric patients undergoing repeated prolonged deep propofol sedation for proton radiation therapy.

Methods: Sedation was induced with small boluses of propofol until sufficient sedation was obtained for positioning. Deep sedation was maintained for the whole course of CT scanning and proton radiation therapy using continuous propofol infusion (10 mg/kg/h) four to five times a week. Central venous blood was taken weekly immediately after cessation of propofol infusion at the end of the radiation procedure. Blood samples were analyzed for base excess, lactate concentration and SO2. Data are mean ± SD and are analysed using unpaired, two-sided Student T-test (p < 0.05).

Results: 36 children aged 2.9 ± 1.0 years and weighing 13.7 ± 2.9 kg were enrolled. They had 29.4 ± 3.3 radiation procedures within 6 to 8 weeks. Mean duration of the 1058 sedation procedures was 59.2 ± 20.8 minutes and total amount of propofol administered per session was 13.4 ± 2.5 mg/kg. No significant changes in individual base excess, lactate concentration and ScvO2 were observed during the period studied. Weekly summarized base excess, lactate concentration and ScvO2 did not reveal statistically significant differences between the first and the following assessments.

Conclusion: Based on our data, repeated prolonged deep sedation over several weeks using propofol for induction and maintenance does not cause metabolic acidosis, elevation of lactate concentration or decrease in cardiac output and seems to be safe.


Detection of oesophageal intubation in children using low-frequency forced oscillation technique Weiss M1, Basiek P2, Straub D1, Wildhaber J2
1) Department of Anesthesia and 2) Pulmonology, University Children’s Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

Objective: The aim of the present study was to evaluate the ability of low-frequency Forced Oscillation Technique (FOT), allowing for rapid and precise assessment of airway mechanic, to discriminate between tracheal and oesophageal intubation [1, 2].

Methods: In children undergoing general anaesthesia the trachea was intubated first, the high-volume low-pressure tube cuff inflated to 20 cmH2O cuff pressure and the tube secured by tapes. Oesophageal intubation was performed afterwards with a tracheal tube of the same size and the cuff was also inflated to 20 cmH2O cuff pressure. Four FOT measurements were performed first at the tracheal tube followed at the oesophageal tube (Paw = 0 mbar). The analysis of complete impedance-spectra (reflection pattern using frequencies in range 0.4–12 Hz) for each mentioned condition was done. Based on resistance, inertia, tissue damping and elastance the mechanic
Impact of different probe types and probe positions on cardiac output measurement by electrical velocimetry

1 Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Therapy, 2 Cardiology, University Children's Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

Background and purpose: To evaluate whether probe type and probe placement influences cardiac output measurement by electrical velocimetry with the Asclepol Monitor (Osypka Medical GmbH, Berlin, Germany) in anesthetized children (1).

Methods: Cardiac output (CO) values measured with two different probe types in 20 children in randomised order on the thoracic (standard position) and on the neck (reverse position). A special switch box, built by the manufacturer, allowed changing the measured probe position in three different positions on the patients' surface (neck versus thoracic (standard), femoral or thoracic artery position). The thoracic position was chosen to avoid flow disturbances at the neck. A special switch box, built by the manufacturer, allowed changing the measured probe position in three different positions on the patients' surface (neck versus thoracic (standard), femoral or thoracic artery position). The thoracic position was chosen to avoid flow disturbances at the neck.

Results: Data are median (range) or mean±SD; *p <0.05; **p <0.005; ***p <0.0001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Trachea</th>
<th>Oesophagus</th>
<th>T-test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resistance</td>
<td>cmH2O×s×L−1</td>
<td>3.4 ± 2.3</td>
<td>-262.5 ± 87.7</td>
<td>p &lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inertance</td>
<td>cmH2O×s×L−1</td>
<td>0.06 ± 0.02</td>
<td>-2.6 ± 1.2</td>
<td>p &lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue damping</td>
<td>cmH2O×L−1</td>
<td>4.3 ± 0.6</td>
<td>-266.6 ± 418.2</td>
<td>p &lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elasticity</td>
<td>cmH2O×L−1</td>
<td>33.1 ± 21.5</td>
<td>-137.0 ± 979.5</td>
<td>p &lt;0.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions: Preliminary data shows that low-frequency Forced Oscillation Technique based measurement of resistance and inertance at the tracheal tube has the potential to reliably discriminate between tracheal and oesophageal intubation.

References:

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Effect of late sevoflurane postconditioning on myocardial enzyme kinetics after on pump cardiac surgery – preliminary data

Marc P. Steurer, M.D., Milo Puhan, M.D., Edith R. Schmid, M.D., Donat R. Sparn, M.D., Beatrice Beck-Schimmer, M.D.
1 Institute of Anesthesiology, University Hospital of Zurich, Switzerland

Introduction: Cardiac surgery with the use of extracorporeal circulation is frequently associated with a postoperative elevation of myocardial enzymes as an expression of myocardial injury or even myocardial infarction. The protective effect of preconditioning with volatile anaesthetics on preservation of myocardium has been well studied. However, there are very limited data on postconditioning in intensive care units (ICU) after cardiac surgery.

Objectives: The following question was addressed: Does postoperative sedation with Sevoflurane have a positive effect on myocardial enzyme kinetics after on pump cardiac surgery?

Material and methods: 38 Patients undergoing on pump cardiac surgery were analyzed: all patients received Propofol as anesthetic during surgery. In the ICU, patients were randomized to be sedated with either Sevoflurane (n = 17) or Propofol (n = 21). Creatinine kinase (CK) and CK-MB, Myoglobin (Mb) and Troponin T (TT) were measured in quick succession without any manipulations of the probes. Data by the manufacturer, allowed changing the measured probe position to 3 different positions on the patients'surface (neck versus thoracic (standard), femoral or oesophageal position). For statistical evaluation, the two groups were compared using a paired T-test (p <0.05). Data are presented as range (median) or mean±SD.

Results: The myocardial enzymes showed no statistically significant difference in the two groups at baseline (T0). Afterwards (T1 and T2) there was a clear trend towards all myocardial markers being lower in the Sevoflurane group. Statistical significance (p <0.05) between the two groups was reached for CK at T2, and for Mb at T1 and T2.

Conclusion: There is emerging evidence that a late postconditioning setting with Sevoflurane results in a better profile of myocardial injury marker kinetics after on pump cardiac surgery.

P 15

Percutaneous transarterial aortic valve replacement for symptomatic severe aortic stenosis in high-risk patients

1 University Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Therapy, and 2 Cardiology, University Hospital Bern

Background: Percutaneous aortic valve replacement (PAVR) is an alternative therapy option for severe, symptomatic aortic valvular stenosis in selected high-risk patients. We report the anesthesiological management and procedural outcome of our first PAVR series.

Methods: 27 patients (mean age ± SD: 84 ± 13, 17/14 men) received PAVR (n = 23 CoreValve™ System; n = 4 Edwards-SAPIEN™ System) between 08/07 and 03/08. Pre-procedural evaluation revealed significant coronary artery disease in 52%, a mean left ventricular ejection fraction of 52 ± 12%, systolic pulmonary hypertension >60 mm Hg in 33%, previous cardiac surgery in 20%, peripheral arteriopathy in 44%, and renal failure (creatinine >200 μmol/l) in 11%.

Results: PAVR was performed under general anesthesia in 11/27 (GA), and under local anesthesia with mild systemic sedative/analgesic treatment (MAC) in 16/27. All patients received a radial artery and a pulmonary artery catheter, and 2 transvenous pacers (rapid pacing). Edwards valves were placed under TEE control. Vasopressors were used in 11/11 patients under GA (100%), and in 8/16 under MAC (50%). Immediately after PAVR, 23/27 patients were awake, extuba-ted and neurologically normal. One patient (conversion of MAC in GA during CPR) was extubated at postop. day 1 (POD), another at POD 2 (prop. mechanical ventilation). 2/27 patients died during PAVR (LV perforation, severe aortic insufficiency), 1/27 died at POD 13 (RV failure). Mortality at 30 days was 11%. In 25/27 (93%) patients, PAVR was successful (mean transvalvular gradient: pre 50 ± 12 mm Hg; post 7 ± 6 mm Hg). Three patients required minor vascular repair. No periprocedural stroke, coronary artery occlusion or pericardial tamponade were observed.

Conclusions: Our first experience of PAVR in selected high-risk elderly patients with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis demonstrates good device success, good hemodynamic results and a very rapid recovery. MAC was associated with stable hemodynamic conditions.

A combination of propofol and ketamine for patient sedation in percutaneous aortic valve replacement

S. Trachsel, R. Basciani, S. Henle, M. Neumann, C. Zobrist, B. Eberle
Universitätsklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie

Introduction: An increasing number of interventional cardiac procedures are performed faster with less physiologic strain. Therefore monitored anesthesia care (MAC) is getting increasingly popular. Adequate and safe sedation in octogenarians with severe aortic stenosis and high surgical risk is mandatory. Sedation with benzodiazepine – opioid combination is prone for respiratory depression, insufficient control of administration, and effects on hemodynamics may be detrimental in view of, e.g., severe aortic valve stenosis. A mixture of ketamine and propofol anesthesia was used in pediatric patients undergoing cardiac catheterization (1). We report a case series of 12 patients sedated with a combination of ketamin in propofol for PAVR.

References:
Evaluation of the Glidescope®, the McGrath® and the Airtraq® laryngoscopes in simulated difficult airways: a randomized controlled comparison

Savoldelli GL, Waebler JL, Abbeg C, Baeriswyl V, Clercoge F, Schiffer E
Service d’Anesthésie, HUG

Background and goal of study: Few studies have compared the efficacy of recently developed video and optical laryngoscopes. Using a manakin, we compared the Glidescope (GVL), the McGrath (MVL), the Airtraq (AOL) and the Macintosh (MI) laryngoscopes in 3 difficult airway scenarios.

Materials and methods: Sixty anesthetists were enrolled. After standardized training, they intubated the Laerdal SimMan® with each laryngoscope in 3 different scenarios: 1) Pharyngeal obstruction, 2) Pharyngeal obstruction and cervical rigidity, 3) Tongue Oedema. The sequence of use of the devices was randomized. Outcome measures were: time to intubate (TTI), Modified Cormack-Lehane grades (MCL) and failure rate. Friedmann and Wilcoxon signed rank test were used as appropriate.

Results and discussion: In scenario 1 and 2, TTI for MI and AOL did not differ. Both were faster than MVL and GVL (p <0.01). In scenario 3, TTI were highly different (all p <0.001): Intubation was the fastest with AOL, followed by MVL, GVL, and the MI. Intubation failures occurred with the MI (37%), the GVL (2%) and the AOL (2%). MCL distributions for each scenario and each device are shown in the Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>MI</th>
<th>GVL</th>
<th>AOL</th>
<th>MVL</th>
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(p <0.001 vs MI; # p <0.001 vs GVL)

Conclusion(s): Our study demonstrates that, in comparison to the MI blade, indirect laryngoscopes provide better laryngeal exposure and facilitate tracheal intubation, in simulated difficult airway scenarios. These advantages increased with the level of difficulty of the scenario and were more pronounced in the “tongue oedema scenario”.

Methods: 12 patients scheduled for elective PAVR (Corevalve), without indication for transesophageal echocardiography for valve placement, were equipped with two peripheral venous canulas, an arterial line, a jugular introducer two paths for temporary transvenous pacing electrodes and pulmonary artery catheter placement. The sedative mixture was prepared as ketamin 0.3% in propofol 1%. The mixture was infused intravenously by a continuously, manually controlled perfusion pump regimen and set from 5 to 10 ml/h. Vital signs, BIS and procedure-related parameters were continuously monitored.

Results: 4 women and 8 men with a mean age of 84 ± 4 years were sedated with the combination of ketamin and propofol. One patient died due to an interventional complication. The median intervention time was 98 (60–210) min. During that time the patients received a mean dose of 3.2 ± 1.3 mcg/kg/min ketamin and 11 ± 4.3 mcg/kg/min propofol. In 6 cases vasoactive support was necessary. Cardiac index did not change before and shortly after valve placement (2.8 vs. 2.8 l/min/m²). Intubation was necessary in one case and ICU admission planned in 5 of the 12 cases.

Conclusion: A combination of ketamin and propofol is useful for sedation of elderly patients for PAVR presenting high surgical and anesthetic risk. BIS is not reliable for sedation depth monitoring because of the ketamine compound.


Materials and methods: Sixty anesthetists were enrolled. After standardized training, they intubated the Laerdal SimMan® with each laryngoscope in 3 different scenarios: 1) Pharyngeal obstruction, 2) Pharyngeal obstruction and cervical rigidity, 3) Tongue Oedema. The sequence of use of the devices was randomized. Outcome measures were: time to intubate (TTI), Modified Cormack-Lehane grades (MCL) and failure rate. Friedmann and Wilcoxon signed rank test were used as appropriate.

Results and discussion: In scenario 1 and 2, TTI for MI and AOL did not differ. Both were faster than MVL and GVL (p <0.01). In scenario 3, TTI were highly different (all p <0.001): Intubation was the fastest with AOL, followed by MVL, GVL, and the MI. Intubation failures occurred with the MI (37%), the GVL (2%) and the AOL (2%). MCL distributions for each scenario and each device are shown in the Table.

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<td>40/3/9/8</td>
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(p <0.001 vs MI; # p <0.001 vs GVL)

Conclusion(s): Our study demonstrates that, in comparison to the MI blade, indirect laryngoscopes provide better laryngeal exposure and facilitate tracheal intubation, in simulated difficult airway scenarios. These advantages increased with the level of difficulty of the scenario and were more pronounced in the “tongue oedema scenario”.

Methods: In vitro tracheal sealing was studied in HVLP tracheal tube cuffs (Microcuff ID 8.0 mm, Microcuff GmbH, Weinheim, Germany) in combination with a conventional cuff manometer (Cuff Pressure Monitor, Microcuff GmbH, Weinheim, Germany) and two different automated cuff pressure regulators (Cuff Controller, VBM Medizintechnik GmbH, Sulz a.N., Germany and Cuff Pressure Control, Tracoe®, TRACOE medical GmbH, Frankfurt, Germany). Experiments were performed at cuff pressures of 10, 15, 20 and 25 cmH2O during intermittent positive pressure ventilation with peak inspiratory pressures of 20 and 25 cmH2O. Air leakage was spirometrically assessed. Experiments were performed four times using two tracheal tubes with two exemplars of each cuff pressure controller type.

Results: The Tracoe™ automated cuff pressure regulators revealed rapid pressure compensation whereas the VBM cuff pressure controller demonstrated delayed pressure regulation. With a conventional cuff pressure manometer and the slow-reacting VBM cuff pressure controller sufficient sealing (air leakage <20 ml/lidal volume) was obtained at all cuff pressures tested in both ventilation settings. With the fast-responding Tracoe™ cuff pressure controller sufficient sealing was only achieved at cuff pressures of 20 and 25 cmH2O. This was because of immediate compensation of any respiratory induced cuff pressure changes with even cyclic excessive deflation of the tube cuff below initially set cuff pressure level.

Conclusions: Automated cuff pressure regulators with rapid pressure correction characteristics interfere with the self-inflating mechanism of HVLP tube cuffs and impair the improved tracheal sealing characteristics of HVLP tube cuffs.

Comparison of sealing quality of the Super Seal Guard versus the Standard Seal Guard tracheal tube cuff

Madjidpour C1, Mauch J2, Bennet V2, Doell C1, Kutter A1, Bettachart R1, Weiss M1
1Department of Anaesthesia and Department of Intensive Care and Neonatology, University Children's Hospital Zurich, Switzerland; 2Equipe Department Vetsuisse Faculty, Zurich, Switzerland

Background: This study compared sealing characteristics of the recently introduced cone-shaped Super Seal Guard (SSG) tracheal tube cuff with the standard cylindrical-shaped SG) tracheal tube cuff (Coviden, Athlone, Ireland) (1).

Methods: ID. 7.5 mm SS- and SG tracheal tube cuffs were measured at the upper cuff border using an anaesthetic gas analyser. Experiments were repeated six times with new tubes for each run.

Results: As mean/SD and were compared using t-Test. The P20 SSG measured 5 cmH2O, respiratory rate 12/min, peak inspiratory pressure (PIP) of 20 and 25 cmH2O. Sevoflurane passing the tube cuff was measured and displayed a more favourable learning curve than the GVL and the MGL.

Conclusion: The new Super Seal Guard tracheal tube cuff was superior to the Standard Seal Guard tracheal tube cuff regarding prevention of air leakage in an in vitro tracheal model.

Learning curves for the Glidescope®, the McGrath® and the Airtraq® laryngoscopes in normal airways: a manikin study.

Savoldelli GL, Waeber JL, Abegg C, Baeriswyl V, Clergue F, Schiffer E.
Service d'Anesthésiologie, HUG

Introduction: Several Video and optical laryngoscopes have been developed but few have been compared in terms of their learning curves and efficacy. Using a manikin with normal airways we compared the Glidescope® (GVL), the McGrath® (MGL), the Airtraq® (AOL) and the Macintosh (MI) laryngoscopes.

Materials and methods: sixty anaesthetists participated in this randomized study. All subjects were novices with the new devices. Experiments were repeated six times with new tubes for each run. Data are presented as mean/SD and were compared using t-Test (p < 0.05).

Results: As mean/SD and were compared using t-Test.

Conclusion: The AOL had the most favourable learning curve, the McGrath® displayed a more favourable learning curve than the GVL and the MGL.

Urinary retention after spinal anesthesia with hyperbaric prilocaine 2% in the ambulatory setting

J. Kreuziger1, B. Frankenberger, S. Zbinden1,2
Klinik für Anästhesie und Intensivbehandlung, Luzerner Kantons spitäl, Departement Wohlenhusen

Introduction: Hyperbaric prilocaine 2% has gained popularity as a medium-long acting spinal anaesthetic in the ambulatory setting. Successful micturition is still the critical discharge criterion in many centers. Data is sparse on the time to recovery and the rate of urinary retention after spinal hyperbaric prilocaine. This prospective observational study was undertaken to evaluate the time to spontaneous micturition and to quantify the rate of bladder catheterization after spinal anesthesia with hyperbaric prilocaine 2%.

Patients and methods: Adult, ASA I or II patients (16-80 years) scheduled for ambula-tory surgery of the knee or lower leg were enrolled. Patients were urged to micturate preoperatively. After standard monitoring they received 60 mg of hyperbaric prilocaine 2% intrathecally Ringer’s lactate (RL) was administered for volume replacement. After the operation patients were allowed to drink freely. Bladder scan was performed before spinal anesthesia and hourly until spontaneous micturition or catheterization. Patients were catheterized when bladder filling reached 600 ml. Descriptive analysis of data, Student’s t-test and Fisher’s exact test were performed to detect significant differences due to age or gender. Correlation among different outcome parameters and potential factors influencing micturition was performed by Pearson’s correlation test.

Results: Of 93 enrolled patients, 86 were included (m = 49, f = 36, exclusion due to incomplete data). Patients received on average 550 ml RL intraoperatively and a total of 870 ml until micturition or catheterization. They drank an average of 280 ml, 36.1% of women and 12.1% of men were catheterized. Mean time between spinal puncture and catheterization was 190 min. 65 patients (76.5%) were able to micturate spontaneously after an average time of 275 min. Patients under 40 years or older than 60 years had a significantly higher incidence of catheterization than patients between 40 and 60 years. Overall women had a significantly higher incidence of catheterization (p = 0.016).

Conclusion: 24.5% of patients receiving 60 mg of hyperbaric prilocaine 2% had to be catheterized. Patients under 40 years or older than 60 years, especially women, have a significantly higher incidence of urinary retention. Spontaneous micturition should remain a discharge criterion after spinal hyperbaric prilocaine 2%.
Results: 229 patients were identified by OHEMS; 158 fulfilled inclusion criteria and were included consecutively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key performance indicators</th>
<th>HUG</th>
<th>CHUV</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indirect admission (&lt;10%)</td>
<td>11/53 (20.75%)</td>
<td>14/72 (19.4%)</td>
<td>3/20 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from call to 1st CT &lt;90 min</td>
<td>25/37 (67.6%)</td>
<td>28/54 (51.9%)</td>
<td>5/15 (33.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypotension (BP &lt;90)</td>
<td>1/42 (2.4%)</td>
<td>3/55 (5.5%)</td>
<td>0/16 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperventilation*</td>
<td>0/28 (0%)</td>
<td>8/45 (17.8%)</td>
<td>0/12 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* direct admission, parameters at hospital admission

Conclusion: A number of modifiable key performance indicators were not met in the western part of Switzerland. Differences in management and timing were noted between centres. Further training is necessary to improve our trauma system and to influence mortality.

Anesthesiologic management and severity of injury of the first 100 patients of the Lausanne Trauma Registry

C. Heim, P. Schectetter, N. Gilliard
Service d'Anesthésiologie, CHUV, Lausanne

Introduction: In Switzerland, anesthesiologists are trauma team members and are systematically involved in the management of the severely injured patients. Based on our newly developed trauma registry, we aimed at analyzing the demographics, injury patterns, anesthesiology procedures and outcome of our trauma patients.

Method: Data from pre-hospital, shock room and operating room settings as well as procedures, treatment and outcome were prospectively collected with the help of dedicated trauma registry software. The first 100 adult trauma patient brought to the shock room and included in the registry beginning on the 1st of January 2008 were analyzed.

Results: 79 patients were male with a median age of 41.7 years (IQ 24.5–53.8). Trauma was related to road accidents (40%), falls (38%), self-inflicted violence (10%), burns (5%), criminal intention (5%) and unknown (8%). Median ISS Score was 16.5 (IQ 9–29) and 29% of patients had ISS >15. 21% of patients were admitted intubated and further 16% required intubation in the shock room (7% within the first 10 minutes after arrival). Arterial catheters were inserted in 26%, and central line catheters in 5%. 71% had a shock-room CT-Scan. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was required in 5% of which 2% survived. After shock-room management, 53% of patients were transferred to the emergency department, 29% to the operating room and 16% to the intensive care. The median time in the shock room was 51 minutes (IQ 35–72), with extremes of 10 and 185 minutes. Of the 100 patients, 8 died (2 deaths in the shock-room, 3 in theater, 2 in ICU and 1 in the ward.

Discussion: Trauma patients require a dedicated team to manage life-threatening injuries in which the anesthesiologists play an integral role. Although Switzerland offers a high level of care in the pre-hospital setting, specialized care is needed in a number of cases in the trauma shock room. Time-consuming procedures are necessary which mandates a constant anesthesiology team presence.

Feasibility of an Anaesthesiology based trauma registry in a swiss university hospital

C. Heim, P. Schectetter, I. Demelville, N. Gilliard
Service d’Anesthésiologie, CHUV, Lausanne

Introduction: In organized trauma care, a registry is an integral part of the modern comprehensive trauma system and is the primary source of data for resource allocation, quality improvement efforts and hypothesis-generating research in trauma care. In Switzerland, anesthesiologists are essential team members in trauma care as they treat the directly injured patients throughout their hospital stay from shock-room arrival through operating room procedures until arrival in the intensive care unit. During operating room management, mandatory data collection by anesthesiologists is standard level of care.

Aim: To develop a tool for collaborative and prospective survey on epidemiologic characteristics, treatment and outcome of severely injured trauma patients managed by anesthesiologists in the university hospital of Lausanne, CHUV and to validate the quality of data collection.

Method: Dedicated software based on ACCESS 2000 was developed and 262 items were prospectively collected for every adult trauma patient brought to the shock-room. Parameters about pre-hospital, shock-room and operating room management as well as timing, demographics, severity of injury, adverse events and outcome were analyzed. Scores and codes used are ASIS/2005, CHOP, ICD-10, RTS, TRISS and MTS.

Results: From the 1st of January to 31 May 2008, data of 120 patients were entered by a trauma data manager supervised by an anesthesiologist. An average of 59 minutes were necessary to collect all data for one patient. Missing values were related to respiratory rate, temperature and Visual Analog Scale(VAS) on scene of the accident as well as in the shock-room. Glasgow Coma Scale recording and data about fluid quantity were insufficient by the shock-room team.

Discussion: Trauma registries are essential tools for quality assurance, teaching and research. Most trauma registries are created and managed by surgeons. In our institution, anesthesiologists provide emergency care from site of the accident throughout the shock and operating rooms until arrival to intensive care. Despite some quality issues about missing data, the establishment of an anesthesiology based trauma registry has proven to be an achievable goal.

A Web-based knowledge database (Wiki platform) is a powerful, widely accessible tool for learning and documentation of SOPs in cardiac anesthesia

Sebastien Trachsel, Jörg Breitenstein, Balthasar Ebene
Universitätsklinik für Anästhesiologie und Schmerztherapie

Introduction: A clinicians infrastructure aims to improve communication, learning and facilitate access to knowledge [1]. Manuals and quality management systems are commonly used in order to guarantee quality and consistency of workflow. Maintenance of these documents is laborious and access to information can be difficult. A “collaborative hypertextum" is a medium that consists of nodes representing content and arcs between contents. A wiki is collaborative software that enables documents to be authored collectively using a web browser. Performing anesthesia for highly innovative fields, as cardiac surgery or cardiology, requires exact and current SOPs for daily practice. Wiki platforms are used for educational purposes and are in use for several years now [3]. The aim of this project was to develop a wiki platform that allows availability, continuous documentation and development of anesthetic SOPs for teaching and information in cardiac anesthesia.

Method: The wiki server software was configured online and access restricted by password. Registered users can freely create and edit web page content using any web browser without extensive IT knowledge.

Results: The new tool enables the clinicians to access and share knowledge simply, fast and worldwide. Wikis support hyperlinks and have text syntax for creating new pages and links between pages. It is possible to efficiently manage, navigate, and enhance SOPs and improve collective knowledge. Additional templates can be added as extensions that allow videos (TEE), pictures or PDF files to be uploaded and viewed. Of course, no confidential patient data are to be introduced in the database and all illustrations are to be anonymized carefully before upload. A calendar extension allows scheduling in the database lacking confidential information.

Conclusion: A wiki knowledge database is well suited for medical SOPs documentation, learning and access, and is easily edited for up-to-date information.


Utility assessment of an anesthetic drug display for anesthesia care in a pilot study setting

Peter M. Schumacher, Matthias Baechtold, Volker Hartwich, Thomas W. Bouillon, Martin Luginbuehl
Universitätsklinik für Anästhesie, Bern

A system visualizing anesthetic drug concentrations and relating them to an effect could help to dose in a more rational manner. Two such display systems have been proposed [1, 2]. We have evaluated the utility of one of them [2] in a clinical pilot study.

Methods: After local ethics committee approval 40 patients were enrolled with their informed written consent. Twenty anesthesiologists performed a control and display case in randomized sequence. In both groups propofol was administered with TCI and antifibrillant in bolus of 0.5–1 mg. In the display group the anesthesiologists additionally had a PKPD display as described in [2]. A standardized briefing of 45
minutes including hands-on training on the prototype display system was given to each anesthesiologist. The goal was to provide adequate anesthesia with minimal hemodynamic variability and rapid and pain-free emergence. To assess the utility of the display, subjective task load and performance ratings were collected with 3 anonymized NASA task load index (TLX) questionnaires [3]: one immediately after each case and one as an explicit comparison of the two cases a few days later. The NASA-TLX evaluates mental, physical and temporal demand and rates performance, effort and frustration levels. Furthermore the anesthesiologists were asked if the display simplified the task and if it should be added to standard monitoring.

Results: Of the twenty residents and staff members with 1 to 10 years experience 18 returned all 3 questionnaires. From the six NASA TLX questions 2 showed relevant differences between the groups: In comparison to the control case the performance in achieving the task was rated worse by 4, similar by 6 and better by 8. This came at a cost of a higher mental demand, however. The task simplification of the display was considered high or very high by 7, moderate by 7 and low to none by 4.

Conclusion: We found promising utility results from first time users of an anesthesia drug display in this pilot study setting. The first time clinical use after a limited training may have caused the conflicting judgments on task simplification.


Knowledge of Glasgow Coma Scale by Swiss Air-Rescue Physicians

C. Heim\(^1\), P. Schoettker\(^2\), D.R. Spahn\(^2\)
\(^1\)Division of Anesthesiology; \(^2\)Infection Control Program; and consecutively identified. All post-insertion chest radiographies

Methods: During a 3 months period every CVC insertion in adults hospitalized in the University Hospital of Geneva was prospectively assessed on institutional level of a large university hospital.

Aim: of this investigation was to estimate mechanical complications on a institutional level of a large university hospital.

Methods: During a 3 months period every CVC insertion in adults hospitalized in the University Hospital of Geneva was prospectively and consecutively identified. All post-insertion chest radiographies (CR) were reviewed. CRs with identified mechanical complications and/or inaccurate tip placement were secondary reviewed by radiologists. CVC tip placement was “too low” if located below the carina, “too high” if located more than 2 cm above the carina. CVC tip placement was in a “wrong placement” if located in a vein other than vena cava superior.

Results: 486 catheters in 330 patients (199 male / 131 female) were identified. Jugular and sub-clavian insertions were observed in 422 CVCs (86%), femoral insertion in 60 CVCs (12%); 5 insertions could not be identified. One pneumothorax (0.2%) and no haematothorax were observed.

Conclusions: Intracardiac tip placement was frequently observed which may increase the risk of arrhythmia or cardiac perforation. Few pneumo- and no haematothorax were found in this short study duration. The high rate of CVC complications and no published data are available for Switzerland.

Vermeidung von Eingriffsverwechslungen in der Chirurgie

Dr. med. Marc-Anton Hochreutener
Stiftung für Patientensicherheit

Objective: Entwicklung und Verbreitung von Empfehlungen zur Prävention von Wrong Site Surgery (Eingriffsverwechslungen).


Results: Auf der Basis der breit abgestützten Entwicklungsarbeiten und der internatio-nal bewährten Vorlagen wurde ein Flyer entwickelt und eine Plakatvorlage entwickelt, welche in Deutschland und in der Schweiz (hier mit Unterstützung durch die fmk) in der Fachwelt breit gestreut werden. Der Flyer spricht die folgenden Stationen des interventionellen Behandlungsprozesses an und formuliert konkrete Handlungsempfehlungen (checks), welche die Prävention von Wrong Site Surgery unterstützen: 1) Identifikation des Patienten und der Operation und Operationsstelle vor / bei Aufnahme; 2) Markierung des Eingriffsstorthes; 3) Zuweisung zum richtigen OP-Saal; 4) Team Time Out vor Schnitt.


Evaluation of the PediaSat continuous central venous oxygenation monitoring system in paediatric anaesthesia

Bettes D\(^1\), Wolfzek K\(^1\), Bükü C\(^1\), Baugl W\(^1\), Smehl A\(^1\), Prêtre P\(^1\), Weiss M\(^1\)
\(^1\)Department of Anaesthesia and \(^2\)Cardiac Surgery, University Children’s Hospital Zurich and \(^3\)Division of Cardiac Anaesthesia, University Hospital Zurich

Objectives: This study was designed to compare the accuracy of a new continuous venous oxygenation monitoring system (PediaSat Oximetry Catheter; Edwards Life-sciences, Irvine, CA) with laboratory blood oximetry in paediatric surgical patients [1, 2].
In-vitro evaluation of the new PaediSat continuous central venous oxygenation monitoring system

Baulig W1, Woltzke K2, Zelter H1, Jovic T3, Bettex D2, Burki C2, Weiss M2

1Division of Cardiac Anaesthesia, University Hospital Zurich; 2Department of Anaesthesiology and 3Institute of Medical Biostatistics, Johannes Gutenberg-University, Mainz, Germany

Background and objectives: This study was designed to investigate the accuracy of a new spectrophotometric based continuous venous oxygenation monitoring system (PaediSat) in an in-vitro model.

Methods: A continuous fiberoptic oximetry catheter (PaediSat Oximetry Catheter; Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine, CA) was inserted in a black testing chamber, connected with an extracorporeal circuit and an oxygenation monitoring system (PediSat) in an in-vitro model.

Results: Thirty-two data pairs were recorded: SPediSatO2 and SO2 ranged from 28 to 98 % and from 24.9 to 99.5 % respectively. Correlation of PaediSatO2 vs. SO2 was high with r = 0.98 (p <0.0001). Bias between SPediSatO2 and SO2 values was –1.3% (limits of agreement: –4.7 / +2.2%). The disagreement between PaediSatO2 and SO2 values was not different between SO2-values above or below 70% (p = 0.516). Sensitivity and specificity of the first differences of PaediSatO2 and SO2 were 1.0 and 0.91 respectively.

Conclusions: Based on the preliminary data, the tested PaediSat Oximetry Catheter system reliably reflects oximetric assessed SO2 values in this in-vitro setup and was without drift over a large range of measured SO2. In-vivo studies are required to confirm these results.

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