

The Use of Pain Management during Anesthesia and its Benefits for Patients

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Abstract

This study, which focuses on current developments in perioperative analgesia, thoroughly investigates the critical role that anaesthesia plays in managing perioperative pain. With a focus on current developments in surgical analgesic procedures, this paper investigates the basic link between anaesthesia and analgesia. The objective of this research is to clarify the changing landscape of anaesthesia in surgical settings and shed insight on the ways in which these developments are helping patients manage their pain. To support its conclusions, this study collected empirical data and conducted a thorough literature analysis, among other rigorous research methods. This study shows how modern anaesthesia has a big impact on healthcare practitioners and academics in this sector. It also provides vital insights into alternate modes of action and effectiveness. By taking into account these variables, this research aims to advance knowledge of the ways that anaesthesia contributes to patients' better perioperative experiences by reducing pain.

Keywords: *anesthesia, pain, management, perioperative, analgesia.*

Introduction

Since pain treatment has always been a top priority in the field of anesthesiology, pain medicine originated there. It is no coincidence that John Bonica, an American anesthesiologist, persevered and founded the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). The notion of making pain management a specialty first surfaced in the US in 1989, and the American Board of Anesthesiologists recommended in 1990 that the American Board of Medical Specialties create a pain certification [1].

Acute postoperative pain is experienced by the majority of surgical patients; however, data indicates that less than half of them report sufficient pain alleviation following their surgeries. For the purpose of minimizing and controlling postoperative pain, numerous preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative treatments and management techniques are available. An interdisciplinary expert panel was commissioned by the American Pain Society, in collaboration with the American Society of Anesthesiologists, to create a clinical practice guideline that would support evidence-based,

safe, and effective postoperative pain management for both adults and children [2].

For the purpose of minimizing and controlling postoperative pain, numerous preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative treatments and management techniques are already available and constantly developing. In order to promote evidence-based, safe, and effective postoperative pain management in children and adults, the American Pain Society (APS) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) collaborated to commission a guideline on postoperative pain management. The guideline addresses various aspects of postoperative pain management, including preoperative education, perioperative pain management planning, the use of various pharmacological and nonpharmacological modalities, organizational policies and procedures, and the transition to outpatient care [2].

In recent years, the field of anesthesiology has broadened its scope beyond the operating room to encompass perioperative medicine, acute pain management, postoperative and intensive care unit care, chronic pain management, sleep medicine, and palliative care medicine. The American Board of Anesthesiology and ACGME currently certify graduates for fellowships in critical care, pediatric anaesthesia, cardiothoracic anaesthesia, obstetric anaesthesia, palliative care, and sleep medicine in recognition of this expansion. By 2016, they will also certify graduates for fellowships in regional anesthesia/acute pain medicine management. Concurrently, the fundamental prerequisites for anesthesiology residency training programs have evolved to encompass roughly 20 months of non-operational room rotations out of a potential 48-month training duration [3].

It is crucial to understand that, in addition to renaming the specialty "Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine," there must be an improvement in the training curriculum to correspond with the growing perioperative duties of anesthesiologists [3].

Standardized, validated instruments should be used by anesthesiologists and other healthcare professionals to enable the routine assessment and recording of pain intensity, the results of pain therapy, and any adverse effects brought on by the therapy [4].

Analgesic methods carry a risk of side effects that can necessitate an immediate medical assessment. The anesthesiologists in charge of perioperative analgesia ought to be accessible at all times to speak with surgeons, ward nurses, and other medical professionals engaged. They should also help assess patients who are having difficulties with any facet of perioperative pain management [4].

In addition to participating in the creation of standardized institutional rules and procedures, anesthesiologists who provide perioperative analgesia services ought to operate within the parameters of an acute pain service. In order to reduce analgesic gaps, an integrated strategy to perioperative pain management involves outcomes assessment, ongoing quality improvement, and the ordering, administration, and transitioning of medicines as well as the transfer of responsibility for perioperative pain therapy [4].

Literature review

Any licensed medical professional with the authority to provide anaesthesia is referred to as an anesthesiologist. Any intentional action taken to temporarily make a patient oblivious to pain or the outside world so that a therapeutic or diagnostic operation can be carried out is known as an anesthetic [5].

All personnel of the institution who provide anaesthesia services to patients for surgical, obstetric, diagnostic, or therapeutic objectives should be included in the anaesthesia department, which should be appropriately directed, organized, and integrated with other departments in the organization or facility [5].

The department should make an effort to guarantee that these services are available as needed by the healthcare institution and should staff in accordance with the scope and type of

the services it offers. A doctor with the necessary training or certification in anaesthesia should be the department chief. This person ought to be chosen in the same way as other clinical department chiefs and ought to be a component of the facility's top medical administrative bodies [5].

Postoperative pain affects about 80% of surgical patients; undertreatment of this pain has a number of detrimental effects and is still a major issue globally. Persistent postsurgical pain (PPP) affects up to 30% of patients and is primarily caused by surgical procedures and acute postoperative pain that is not adequately managed. It is a major burden on society, affecting millions of people worldwide and posing difficulties for perioperative physicians. One important risk factor for PPP has been identified as the intensity of postoperative pain, and a lower frequency of PPP may be linked to early postsurgical acute pain management [6].

The majority of patients spend the first few hours following surgery, or their early postoperative phase, in the post anaesthesia care unit (PACU), which bridges the gap between the operating room and the wards. Preventing PPP requires effective pain management in the PACU. We looked at recent research to see how postoperative pain in the PACU is being assessed and treated more effectively [6].

Research revealed that 41% of PACU patients complained of moderate to severe discomfort. The majority of patients in the PACU exhibit a variety of physiological abnormalities that impact several organs and systems and are brought on by the emergence from anaesthesia and surgery. In most cases, postoperative pain and the agitation that follows exacerbate results by increasing risks and degrading complications through their interactions. The American Society of Anesthesiologists' guidelines state that routine pain monitoring and assessment throughout emergence and recovery can identify problems and lessen unfavorable outcomes. But in the PACU, assessing and treating pain becomes more challenging when a patient is unconscious or incapable of speaking clearly [6].



Figure 1. Anesthesia and Pain Management [7].

In order to enhance the results of any surgical treatment, our anesthesiology department provides comprehensive coverage for general surgeries, respiratory problems, cardiac arrest, pain management, pediatrics, orthopedics, and obstetrics. The patient's safety and pleasure are the main priorities of each and every treatment at Midland Healthcare. Our medical facility's prompt and effective care is designed with the patient's specific needs in mind [7].

Types of Anesthesia

There are four main types of anesthesia. Each has different effects on the body:

1-General anesthesia causes victims to become comatose and immobile, affecting every part of their body. General anaesthesia is administered by anesthesiologists for intricate surgeries involving internal organs as well as other invasive or lengthy procedures, such back surgery. These anesthetics are administered as a gas to be breathed or by an intravenous line [8].

2-Monitored sedation is similar to general anaesthesia in that it causes the body to relax and possibly go to sleep. Nonetheless, depending on the required level of sedation, patients under controlled sedation remain cognizant and may even be able to speak. This type of anaesthesia is frequently used in conjunction with pain management for procedures like complicated dental work or colonoscopies. An intravenous line is used to administer these anesthetics [8].

3-Regional anesthesia limits the feeling of pain and discomfort to the areas of the body that require it, such as the arms, legs, and everything below the waist. This kind of anaesthesia is used to lessen the discomfort of

delivery as well as for hand and joint surgery and caesarean sections. Patients maintain their comfort and consciousness while under regional anaesthesia. These drugs are administered by catheter or injection [8].

4-Local anesthesia impacts just a tiny portion of the body. For instance, during a dental surgery, this kind of anesthetic is used to block pain to a single tooth or to a section of skin that requires sutures. Patients under local anaesthesia stay conscious and comfortable, just like those under regional anaesthesia. Local anesthetics are frequently administered as skin patches, eye drops, topical lotions or sprays, or injections [8].

Regional anesthesia

In recent decades, regional anaesthesia has had a strong resurgence. This is mostly because most anesthetists may now become proficient in core block procedures thanks to the development of ultrasonography-guided techniques. The greater accessibility of regional anaesthesia has been further facilitated by the widespread use of ultrasound in anesthetic situations. This comes at a good moment since there is a rising awareness of the need to reconsider the usage of opioids as the cornerstone of acute pain treatment and anaesthesia. Although regional anaesthesia has historically helped reduce the amount of opioids needed during surgery, it is now better understood as a supplement to a comprehensive multimodal anesthetic approach rather than as a stand-alone treatment [9].

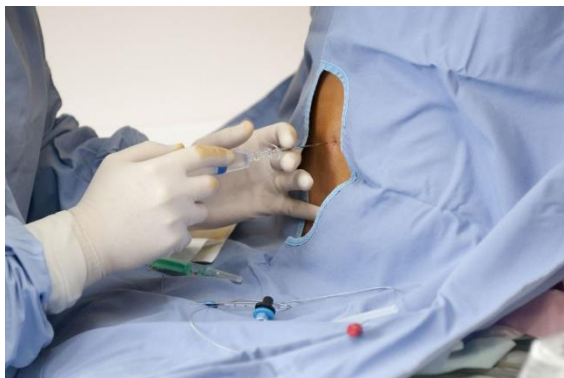


Figure 2. Regional anesthesia. An epidural being administered [16].

One technique to reduce discomfort during surgeries and other treatments is regional anaesthesia. The patient can undergo the surgery while awake or while sedated but still conscious thanks to regional anaesthesia, which only numbs the parts of the body that would normally feel pain. Examples of localized anaesthesia include epidural or spinal blocks. To obstruct feelings in the lower body or limbs, they are injected close to the spinal canal [16].

Role of Regional anesthesia in pain management

Peri-operative regional anaesthesia has advantages that go beyond temporary pain alleviation. Neuraxial anaesthesia is linked to a lower rate of patient death, major morbidity (e.g., pulmonary complications, transfusion requirements), and economic outcomes (e.g., length of hospital stay) in total hip and knee arthroplasty when compared to general anaesthesia, according to multiple large retrospective studies over clinical and administrative databases [9].

Based on mechanistic evidence supporting the prevention of tumor cell seeding and proliferation by many routes, regional anaesthesia has been recommended in oncological surgery to lower the risk of cancer recurrence. Systemic local anesthetics directly affect tumor cell apoptosis, immune function is preserved, the adrenergic and inflammatory response to surgery is effectively suppressed, and the use of opioids is reduced, which may have its own pro-metastatic effects [9].

Effective multimodal analgesic treatments use regional anesthetic procedures as essential elements. Recent years have seen a rise in interest in truncal nerve blocks of the Para neuraxial, abdominal, and chest wall nerves. The development and clinical application of novel truncal nerve blocks, such as rectus sheath, ilioinguinal, iliohypogastric, and erector spinae plane blocks, have been facilitated by ultrasonography since its initial application for guidance during a transversus abdominis plane (TAP) block [14].

Unlike peripheral nerve blocks, each truncal nerve block approach can be performed with

ultrasound without the requirement to identify particular nerves or the neural plexus. Rather, local anesthetic is administered into a specific muscle plane using ultrasonography to make traversing nerves anaesthetized as the anesthetic travels along the targeted fascial plane [14].

General anesthesia

The main objective of general anaesthesia is to suppress autonomic reflexes, make the patient asleep, and prevent them from feeling pain. Intravenous (IV) anesthetics, inhalational anesthetics, IV sedatives, synthetic opioids, and neuromuscular blocking medications are the five primary groups of anesthetic agents. Every class has unique advantages and disadvantages, and the surgical team can benefit from knowing these details as well as important adverse effects [10].

An anesthetic equipment with a ventilator, gas supply, reduction valves, vaporizers, flow meters, breathing circuits and suction canisters is necessary for administering general anaesthesia. Additionally, the anaesthesia machine has a monitor that shows vital signs. A face mask, laryngoscope, endotracheal tubes, styles, and oral/nasal airways are among the other necessary airway accessories [10].

Most often, IV sedatives and analgesics are used to induce general anaesthesia, which is then maintained using volatile anesthetics. Inhalational induction is frequently utilized in youngsters or situations where IV access is hard, but intravenous (IV) induction is better tolerated by patients. Depending on the dose and rate of administration, all IV anesthetics have the potential to cause fast unconsciousness. Awakening is caused by the brain's redistribution to the muscles, fat, and metabolism. Propofol is a phenol agent that is useful for both inducing and maintaining anaesthesia because of its quick onset and short half-life [10].

Role of local anesthesia in pain management

Opioids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications are the two main categories of analgesics used to treat pain (NSAIDs). These

analgesics have different principal mechanisms of action; some work centrally, others peripherally, and some work at several sites. Nonopioid analgesic medications, such as aspirin, paracetamol, and NSAIDs, are typically used as first-line therapies for pain. Because these nonopioid analgesics are easily obtainable without a prescription, reasonably priced, and simple to use, they are beneficial in the relief of acute pain [11].

When the reason and source of the pain are localized to a specific site or region, using local anesthetics to treat pain has numerous potential advantages over the systemic administration of opioid analgesics. It is frequently used to deliver anaesthesia or an epidural as an adjuvant to systemic analgesia [11].

Bupivacaine, lidocaine, procaine, tetracaine, and chlorprocaine are examples of common local anesthetics. They function by numbing the affected area without knocking the user out. The principal molecular mechanism underlying the action of local anesthetics is the blockage of sodium inflow via voltage-gated sodium-specific ion channels in the membrane of the neuron, which stops nerve impulses from being transmitted in areas where local anesthetics are applied [11].



Figure 3. Local dental anesthesia [17].

Depending on the kind of surgery you are having, the dentist can inject local anesthetic in two different ways. An injection known as a "block" numbs the entire oral cavity. For instance, this could apply to one side of your lower jaw only. Infiltration injections are the second kind of injections. An injection of infiltration numbs a far smaller area. Only the

area where the injection site is located is numbered [17].

Due to their ability to block pain neurotransmission at its source, local anesthetics are valuable therapeutic choices for integration into multimodal analgesic methods to postsurgical pain treatment. For postsurgical analgesia, local anesthetics have a proven track record of effectiveness. They are helpful for peripheral nerve blocking, epidural administration, and localized wound infiltration. When used as infiltrates in a surgical environment, local anesthetics have a very short duration of action and elimination half-life. However, their duration of action may be prolonged when they are employed for epidural analgesia or peripheral nerve blocking [12].

Due to their relative tolerability when used properly and their capacity to block pain impulses that originate from the surgical incision itself, local anesthetics play a significant role in multimodal analgesic regimes. Because of their comparatively short duration of action, standard local anesthetics are not as effective in postsurgical settings. As a result, infusion control devices are used to administer continuous infusions. However, the usage of infusion control devices and catheters has been linked to safety issues with accidental catheter dislodging and unpredictable outcomes when elastomeric devices are utilized [12].

Using a combination of analgesics that work through several mechanisms allows for the utilization of additive or synergistic action while minimizing side effects associated with higher dosages of a single analgesic. This technique is known as multimodal analgesia. Peripheral nerve blocks (PNBs), local infiltration, neuraxial analgesia (spinal, epidural, and combination spinal/epidural), and combinations of systemic analgesics (e.g., opioids, paracetamol, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) are examples of evidence-based multimodal techniques that are procedure-specific [15].

Peripheral nerve blocks provide many advantages, such as better clinical, financial,

and humanistic results. PNBs have been linked to decreased opioid usage and better postoperative pain management across a range of surgical procedures [15].

Anesthesia and Chronic Pain Management

Analgesic dosages are usually started on an as-needed basis with the intention of tapering off as pain subsides. NSAIDs reduce inflammation and pain by inhibiting cyclooxygenase (COX) 1 and 2. Acetaminophen is frequently used as an adjuvant due to its good safety profile and tolerability; it is believed to function centrally by inhibiting prostaglandin production. If pain is severe during the acute phase, weak opioids or opioid-like drugs (such as tramadol, tapentadol) may be recommended. These drugs work in the brain and spinal cord's dorsal horn to prevent signals from rising to the somatosensory cortex [13].

Conclusion

Improving patient care and achieving better results depends heavily on the application of pain management techniques under anaesthesia. In order to reduce or eliminate patients' pain and discomfort both during and after surgical procedures, pain management strategies are used. This is accomplished by using a variety of pain management techniques as well as the administration of analgesic drugs. Mitigating pain also contributes to reducing the inflammatory responses and stress response brought on by surgical damage. Pain management under anaesthesia has the potential to improve overall surgical outcomes and provide a more favorable surgical environment by reducing the release of stress hormones and inflammatory mediators.

It is crucial to remember that pain treatment needs to be customized and unique to every patient, taking into account the specifics of their condition, medical background, and type of surgery. In order to guarantee that patients receive the proper pain management throughout their perioperative phase, anesthesiologists and other healthcare professionals play a critical role in diagnosing and managing pain. Patients

gain greatly from the use of pain control during anaesthesia. It lessens the need for excessive opioid use, improves recovery, lowers the risk of complications, and increases patient comfort.

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