

TO STUDY THE EFFICACY OF FEMORAL NERVE BLOCK WHEN USED AS A PART OF MULTIMODAL ANALGESIA REGIMEN IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING KNEE ARTHROPLASTY PERFORMED UNDER SUBARACHNOID BLOCK.

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ABSTRACT

Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) is a common orthopaedic procedure, consisting of replacing diseased or damaged knee joint surfaces to relieve the pain and disability of osteoarthritis. Aim: To study and compare the efficacy of femoral nerve block and adductor canal block when used as a part of multimodal analgesia regimen in patients undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty under subarachnoid block. The ASA 100 strongly recommends that regional blockade with local anaesthetics be considered as a part of the multimodal approach for pain management. Regional block such as femoral nerve block, with local anaesthetics remains a well-accepted component of comprehensive multimodal anaesthesia for postoperative pain management. Aim: To study and compare the efficacy of femoral nerve block and adductor canal block when used as a part of multimodal analgesia regimen in patients undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty under subarachnoid block. Objectives: To assess the effect of femoral nerve block and adductor canal block on the Pain intensity by NRS scale at specific time intervals, till 24 hours post block, the duration of sensory blockade, the duration of motor blockade and to measure the total amount of opioids consumed, till 24 hours post block. Study population: Study population was limited to the patients undergoing elective TKA under SAB under same surgeon. Sample size & sample technique: Sample size was limited to 150 patients systematically divided into two equal groups of 75 patients in each group. We found that the mean NRS pain score at 6 hours, 12 hours and 24 hours in both the groups were similar with the difference being statistically insignificant. In group A mean NRS pain score at 6 hours was 2.8400 ± 1.4708 and in group B it was 2.6933 ± 1.5594 with p value of 0.5544. Mean NRS pain score at 12 hours in group A was 4.9467 ± 1.3939 and in group B it was 4.9067 ± 1.2858 with p value of 0.8553. Mean NRS pain score at 24 hours in group A was 3.0533 ± 1.4036 and in group B it was 2.9733 ± 1.3252 with the p value of 0.7202. We found that the difference in duration of sensory block was also not statistically significant in both the groups with mean duration of sensory block in hours being 9.2400 ± 1.8733 in group A and 8.8133 ± 1.9844 in group B with p value of 0.1778 and total amount of opioid consumption was also similar in both the groups with mean opioid consumption in micrograms being 132.6000 ± 31.9666 in group A and 134.3333 ± 30.4841 in group B with p value of 0.7345.

INTRODUCTION

Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) is a common orthopaedic procedure, consisting of replacing diseased or damaged knee joint surfaces to relieve the pain and disability of osteoarthritis. [1]. TKA is associated with significant post-operative pain that can delay recovery and lengthen hospital stay. [2] Appropriate pain management is a key factor in patient's early recovery to physical fitness, satisfaction and shorter hospital stay. TKA is one of the most painful surgical procedures. Effective analgesia in the immediate postoperative period is important to allow the patient to regain mobility, thereby facilitating recovery and decreasing the length of hospital stay. Relieved severe postoperative pain can result in pathophysiological responses causing adverse postsurgical outcomes. [1] Using opioids alone intensifies their familiar side-effect profile that includes respiratory depression, postoperative nausea and vomiting over sedation, pruritus and chronic opioid dependence. [10] On the other hand the administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs), particularly at higher doses, may be associated with gastrointestinal side effects such as gastritis, gastric ulcers, increased bleeding, and renal impairment. Local anaesthetics have been used in peripheral nerve block prior to or after surgical procedures. However, their use is sometimes limited due to their short duration of action. Excess dosage of local anaesthetics in the blood can cause local anesthetic systemic toxicity leading to cardiovascular collapse and central nervous system side effects (LAST). Multimodal approach to pain control involves administration of combination of either multiple analgesics or modalities at various time points during the course of surgery that includes perioperative period. [3,4] In 2012, the American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) released an update to its Practice Guidelines for Acute Pain Management in the Perioperative Setting. [5] In this report, the ASA strongly recommends the use of a multimodal approach to pain management whenever possible. The ASA strongly recommends that regional blockade with local anaesthetics be considered as a part of the multimodal approach for pain management. Regional block such as femoral nerve block, with local anaesthetics remains a well-accepted component of comprehensive multimodal anaesthesia for postoperative pain management. [6]

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

AIM:

To study and compare the efficacy of femoral nerve block when used as a part of multimodal analgesia regimen in patients undergoing Total Knee Arthroplasty performed under subarachnoid block.

OBJECTIVES:

Primary objective:

To assess the effect of femoral nerve block

The Pain intensity by NRS scale at specific three point time intervals, till 24 hours post block.

The duration of sensory block.

The duration of motor block.

Secondary objective:

To measure the total amount of opioids consumed, till 24 hours post block.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Population: Study population was limited to the patients undergoing elective Total Knee Arthroplasty under SAB.

Study Design: Prospective Observational comparative Study Design. 4. Sample Size Total number of patients in the study were 75.

75 patients - single shot femoral nerve block

All patients received preoperative oral pregabalin 75 mg bd one day before the surgery, IV acetaminophen 1 gm. before the incision intraoperative and was continued every 8 hourly till 24 hours from the time of complete administration of block in the postoperative period, and opioids (fentanyl) for breakthrough pain in the postoperative period by PCA pump.

Study Duration: The study was conducted over a period of one year January 2019 - December 2019.

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Age 30-70 years. 100
2. American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) Status I-II.
3. Normal pre-operative mobility.
4. Mentally capable of comprehending and using Numerical Rating Scale for Pain score.
5. Mentally capable of comprehending and using PCA pump.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Status III and above.
2. Age 70 yr.
3. Patients not consenting to participate in the study.
4. Pre-existing sensory or motor neuropathy.
5. Immunosuppressed patient.

Methodology:

The patients were recruited from January 2019 to December 2019. 75 patients were systematically divided into two groups, strictly adhering to inclusion and exclusion criteria for this study.

Single shot femoral nerve block with 30 ml 0.5% Ropivacaine under USG guidance. All the subjects received preoperative oral pregabalin 75 mg 100 bd one day prior to surgery, IV acetaminophen 1 gm stat before incision intraoperatively followed by 1 gm 8 hourly till 24 hours in the postoperative period, and opioids 100 100 (fentanyl) for breakthrough pain in postoperative period by PCA pump. TKA was performed under SAB.

RESULTS

In this observational audit, 150 patients were studied who underwent Total Knee Arthroplasty under subarachnoid block. Subjects were divided into two groups of 75 patients each namely GROUP A and GROUP B. The patients in GROUP A received single shot femoral nerve block and the patients in GROUP B received single shot adductor canal block. All the 150 subjects received preoperative oral pregabalin 75 mg bd one day prior to surgery, IV acetaminophen 1 gm stat before incision intraoperatively followed by 1 gm 8 hourly till 24 hours in the postoperative period, and opioids (fentanyl) for breakthrough pain in postoperative period by PCA pump.

Distribution of sex in the group.

HYPOTHYROIDISM	GROUP
YES	05
NO	70
TOTAL	75

		Number	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Median	p-value
DURATION OF SENSORY BLOCK	GROUP A	75	9.2400	1.8733	4.0000	12.0000	10.0000	0.177

Difference between the hypothyroidism was not significant, Chi-square value: 1.3843; *p*-value: 0.2393

DIABETES MALLETTUS	GROUP
YES	30
NO	45
TOTAL	75

Chi-square value: 0.2789; *p*-value: 0.5974

		Number	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Median	p-value
NRS PAIN SCORE AT 6 HOURS	GROUP A	75	2.8400	1.4708	0.0000	7.0000	3.0000	0.5544

Difference between the mean NRS PAIN SCORE at 6 HOURS in two groups was not significant, *p*-value: 0.5544

		Number	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Median	p-value
NRS PAIN SCORE AT 12 HOURS	GROUP A	75	4.9467	1.3939	2.0000	7.0000	5.0000	0.8553

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEAN NRS PAIN SCORE AT 12 HOURS

		Number	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Median	p-value
NRS PAIN SCORE AT 24 HOURS	GROUP A	75	3.0533	1.4036	0.0000	7.0000	2.0000	0.7202

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEAN NRS PAIN SCORE AT 24 HOURS

		Number	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Median	p-value
DURATION OF MOTOR-BLOCK	GROUP A	75	11.3067	2.1684	6.0000	16.0000	11.0000	<0.0001

Difference between the mean duration of motor block was significant, p -value: <0.0001

		Number	Mean	SD	Minimum	Maximum	Median	p-value
TO-TALAMOUNT OF OPIOIDS CONSUMED	GROUP A	75	132.6000	31.9666	40.0000	210.0000	135.0000	0.7345

Difference between the mean total amount of opioids consumed, p -value: 0.7345

DISCUSSION

In this study, we compared femoral nerve block and adductor canal block, as a part of multimodal analgesia regimen in patients who underwent elective unilateral TKA under SAB, in terms of outcome measures like mean NRS pain score, duration of sensory block, duration of motor block and total amount of opioids consumed till 24 hours from the time of complete administration of the block. In group-A, the mean age (mean \pm s.d.) of patients was 63.6667 ± 4.1860 years. In group-B, the mean age (mean \pm s.d.) of patients was 63.0800 ± 3.6678 years. Distribution of mean age vs. group was not statistically significant ($p=0.3628$). In group-A, 31 (41.3%) patients were female and 44 (58.7%) patients were male. In group-A, 11 (14.7%) patients had ASA status 1 and 64 (85.3%) patients had ASA status 2. Association of ASA status vs. group was not statistically significant ($p=0.6309$). In group-A, 67 (89.3%) patients were without hypothyroidism and 8 (10.7%) patients were with hypothyroidism. Association of hypothyroidism vs. group was not statistically significant (p -value: 0.2393). In group-A, 52 (69.3%) patients were without hypertension and 23 (30.7%) patients were with hypertension. In group-A, 70 (93.3%) patients were non-smokers and 5 (6.7%) patients were smokers. In group-A, 66 (88.0%) patients were without chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 9 (12.0%) patients were with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. In group-B, 66 (88.0%) patients were without chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 9 (12.0%) patients were with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Similar enrollment of patients was done in the study done by Seib RK et al [7,8] Association

respectively. We found that the mean NRS pain score at 6 hours, 12 hours and 24 hours in both the groups were similar with the difference being statistically insignificant. In group A mean NRS pain score at 6 hours was 2.8400 ± 1.4708 and here our study is in conjunction with the study done by Jaeger *et al* [14], Mean NRS pain score at 12 hours in group A was 4.9467 ± 1.3939 and in group B it was 4.9067 ± 1.2858 with p value of 0.8553. Mean NRS pain score at 24 hours in group A was 3.0533 ± 1.4036 and in group B it was 2.9733 ± 1.3252 with the p value of 0.7202. here the study done by Kim DH *et al* and Sinatra RS *et al* [9,16] totally agrees with our study. We found that the difference in duration of sensory block was also not statistically significant in both the groups with mean duration of sensory block in hours being 9.2400 ± 1.8733 in group A with p value of 0.1778 and total amount of opioid consumption was also similar in both the groups with mean opioid

consumption in micrograms being 132.6000 ± 31.9666 in group A with p value of 0.7345. here study of Wu JW, *et al* [11] is in our favour whereas the study done by van der Wal Metal [12] slightly disagrees with our results. In our study done by We used Bromage scale as an indirect measure of muscle strength to calculate duration of motor block. Lesser the duration of motor block earlier the recovery from motor block, so $p < 0.0001$. We used Bromage scale as an indirect measure of muscle strength to calculate duration of motor block. Lesser the duration of motor block earlier the recovery from motor block, which facilitates early mobilization similar process was done in the study done by Seib RK *et al* and Paul JE *et al* [7,10] and. We used Bromage scale as an indirect measure of muscle strength to calculate duration of motor block. Lesser the duration of motor block earlier the recovery from motor block, which facilitates early mobilization by which facilitates early mobilization. The mean pain scores were found to be mild to moderate on NRS pain scale with NRS pain scores being less than 6 at all the three specific time intervals till 24 hours in both the groups which shows the effectiveness of multimodal analgesia in postoperative period following TKA here the study done by Laurant DB *et al*, Jaeger P *et al*, Jenstrup MT *et al* [13,14,15] favours our results whereas the study done by Kim DH, *et al* [16] slightly disagrees with our results. There are various limitations to our study. The sample size was limited to 150 subjects because of both time and logistic constraints. The duration of our study was limited to one year because of academic requirements. Similar study with larger sample size and longer duration is desirable

CONCLUSION

femoral nerve block when used as a part of multimodal analgesia regimen in patients undergoing TKA under SAB, have: No difference in the pain scores at 6 hours, 12 hours and 24 hours after the administration of block.

No difference in the duration of sensory block.

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