

A Prospective Evaluation of Analgesic Utilization, Pain Assessment in Patients after Abdominal Surgery in a Tertiary Care Centre in Different Clinical Settings

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Background

As with all trauma, pain is an expected part of the surgical experience. Pain assessment moves away from pure physical estimation of pain and includes psychological, social, spiritual and cultural dimensions.

Aims & Objectives

The present study analyzed the analgesic utilization pattern obtained from prescriptions in post-operative patients, intensity of pain and quality of health care provided.

Material & Methods:

Intensity of pain was assessed using VAS score on Post-operative day 1, day 2 and day 3 and Quality of health care was assessed using SCQUIPP questionnaire. The above variables were then compared between a private and a government setting.

Results

The mean age of participants in government setting was 35.38 years and in private setting was 41.05 years. In the government setting 29.31 percent of participants were females while in private setting 65.38 percent were females.

The present research showed that the subjective pain experienced by the patients in private setting is significantly lesser than those in government setting on post-operative day 2 and day 3. This can be attributed to better infrastructure and patient factors like expectations

etc. Gear RW, Gordon NC et al showed definite gender difference in analgesic response. Paller CJ, Claudia M, Dobs AS. et al reported that women experience greater clinical pain, suffer greater pain-related distress, and show heightened sensitivity to experimentally induced pain compared with men. In the present study however, even though the number of female patients were more in the private study setting, the mean VAS score was less on post-operative day 1 and day 3.

Despite the experiences of pain and adverse events, most patients in the present study report were satisfied or very satisfied with their pain treatment and the response of their care providers to reports of pain. This is in contrast to previous studies which reported sub optimal pain management provided to the patients. Patients in the government setting are better satisfied than those in private setting. This may be due to the less cost incurred in a government set up, almost equally efficacious drugs available at subsidized cost as well as good paramedical and medical staff. Also, patients in the private setting may expect a better management for the cost incurred. Patient satisfaction is an important guide to the success of postoperative care and plays a major role in speedy recovery.

Conclusions

The study showed usage of Bupivacaine in the government study setting as compared to that of Ropivacaine in the private setting. Previous studies establish Ropivacaine's better efficacy. However in the present study, no significant difference was found in the perception of pain between the two groups.