

Intrathecal Pethidine as A Sole Agent in Spinal Anaesthesia in Lower Limb Surgeries; A Comparison with 0.5% Bupivacaine Heavy

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Background – Among all opioids, pethidine has unique feature to have characteristics same to local anaesthetics. So present study was planned to evaluate the effectiveness of pethidine as an anesthetic agent and its postoperative analgesic efficacy when used intrathecally as a sole agent in spinal anaesthesia.

Methods - Hundred patients of ASA grade 1 and 2 patients of either sex between the age groups of 20 & 60 years scheduled for lower limb surgeries were studied and randomized in two groups. Group A patients received Inj. Bupivacaine heavy 0.5% intrathecally, while Group B patients received Inj. pethidine (1mg/kg) intrathecally. Along with haemodynamics, sensory and motor blockade characteristics were compared. Postoperative analgesia was assessed with visual analogue score.

Results- Patients enrolled in pethidine group have significantly slower onset of sensory and motor blockade compared to bupivacaine group. Duration of motor blockade was shorter in pethidine group; however postoperative analgesia was significantly greater in pethidine group.

Patient remained haemodynamically stable in both groups.

Conclusion – Intrathecal pethidine provides a comparable degree of surgical anaesthesia without increasing the incidence of side effects as compared to intrathecal bupivacaine.