

Remifentanyl-induced abdominal pain: A randomised clinical trial

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Abstract

Remifentanyl is an ultra-short-acting opioid, widely used for induction and maintenance of anaesthesia in various types of operations. We recently noted that a great number of patients receiving remifentanyl in their anaesthetic regimen experienced postoperative abdominal pain. As a result, we performed this study to investigate its incidence. This randomised single-blinded clinical trial was conducted on 200 patients who were undergoing elective cataract surgery under general anaesthesia. The patients were randomly divided into two groups. In the control group (n=100), anaesthesia was induced with fentanyl and propofol and maintained with propofol by infusion and 1.5% N₂O. In the remifentanyl group, anaesthesia was induced with remifentanyl and propofol and maintained with remifentanyl infusion and inhalation of 1.5% N₂O. Atracurium was used for muscle relaxation in both groups. Abdominal pain was observed in 79 patients (79%) in the remifentanyl group, 10 of whom required a therapeutic intervention, but in only three patients in the control group, none of whom required an intervention (P value=0.001). Postoperative nausea and vomiting were reported in seven and 10 patients (5.5%) in the remifentanyl and control group, respectively. These findings indicate that abdominal pain is very common in patients receiving remifentanyl by infusion for cataract surgery.

Reaxys Database Information

Author keywords

Abdominal pain; Cataract surgery; Remifentanyl; Side-effect

Indexed Keywords

EMTREE drug terms: atracurium; fentanyl; nitrous oxide; propofol; remifentanyl

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MeSH: Abdominal Pain; Adult; Aged; Aged, 18 and over; Anesthetics, Intravenous; Atracurium; Cataract Extraction; Drug Therapy, Combination; Female; Fentanyl; Humans; Incidence; Male; Middle Aged; Neuromuscular Nondepolarizing Agents; Piperidines; Postoperative Complications; Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting; Propofol; Prospective Studies; Single-Blind Method; Surgical Procedures, Elective

Medline is the source for the MeSH terms of this document.

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