

A Prospective Study of Ketamine and Dexmedetomidine for Day Care Anaesthesia in Paediatric Surgery

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Abstract

Introduction: Ketamine is one of the commonly used inducing agent for short surgical procedures particularly in paediatric patients. But, its utility has been restricted because of its unwanted sympathomimetic activity even though it has an excellent analgesic property with minimal respiratory depression. Added to this, it is also associated with undesirable postoperative delirium. In the past, several drugs like Midazolam, Propofol were added to ameliorate the side effects of Ketamine. A Combination of Dexmedetomidine, a short-acting highly selective α_2 negates the unwanted sympathomimetic effects of Ketamine. It also reduces the postoperative hallucination and its antiemetic and antisialagogues properties are beneficial. Several studies have been done to evaluate Ketamine and Dexmedetomidine as a sedative in diagnostic and invasive procedures in children. We have studied its efficacy in short surgical procedures in paediatric cases.

Materials and Methods: The study was conducted in M.G.M Medical College and Hospital Jamshedpur from January 2017 to December 2017. Day Care surgeries with the average duration of 40 mins were taken under study. All the cases which are maintained by spontaneous mask ventilation were taken for study. The study cases had fasting period of 6 hrs. for solid food and 4 hrs. for clear fluids. All study cases were in the age group between 2 yrs. to 12 yrs. and are ASA GR I. Children with anaemia, CHD and any other associated medical abnormalities were excluded.

Results: The Mean PR and BP were found to be stable during the perioperative period. Only one case had bradycardia during intraoperative period, which was corrected with a bolus dose of IV Atropine. Recovery scores showed patient had Aldrete score of 8 after 120 mins. All cases had sedation score of 6 for 2 hrs., which is advantageous to the paediatric age group. All patients had satisfactory analgesia during postoperative period.

Conclusion: Ketamine-Dexmedetomidine combination provides good haemodynamic stability during intraoperative period. Dexmedetomidine has addition property of sedation, antiemesis and analgesia, which makes better choice of drug for combining with Ketamine.

Key Words: ketamine, dexmedetomidine, paediatric surgery, ASA.

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I. Introduction

Induction of anaesthesia either by I.V. or inhalation is suitable in paediatric day care surgeries. The choice depends on the needs of individual child with main goal being smooth atraumatic induction. IV induction has become increasingly popular since the introduction of local anaesthetic skin preparations.¹ There is some evidence that IV induction is less psychologically disturbing than inhalation methods.² In ambulatory practice, Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA) provides advantages for all short surgical procedures. TIVA is found to have advantages of shorter recovery and no agitation or other behavioural disorder even after prolonged infusion.³ Commonly used IV agents for TIVA in day care surgeries are Propofol, Fentanyl, Ketamine, Midazolam and Dexmedetomidine. They produce rapid induction and recovery of anaesthesia.

Ketamine is a phencyclidine derivative. It provides excellent amnesia and analgesia, preserves muscle tone with maintaining air reflexes and spontaneous respiration. But, its drawbacks are frightening emergent reactions, sympathomimetic effects, vomiting and excessive salivation. Ketamine is often combined with midazolam or propofol to alleviate these adverse effects.⁴

Dexmedetomidine is a highly selective α_2 -agonist. It has sedative and anxiolytic properties similar to benzodiazepines. It also produces perioperative analgesia and reduces the narcotic dose requirement. Dexmedetomidine has antiemetic properties and does not possess respiratory depression like benzodiazepines. However, co-administration of dexmedetomidine with other anaesthetic agents, sedatives, hypnotics or opioids is likely to cause additive effects. It attenuates stress-induced sympathoadrenal responses protecting the patients from noxious sympathetic stimulation and haemodynamic changes.⁵ A prospective observational study to

evaluate the efficacy of Ketamine with Dexmedetomidine combination as an anaesthetic in paediatric day care surgeries was done.

II. Materials And Methods

The study was conducted in M.G.M Medical College and Hospital, Jamshedpur from January 2017 to December 2017. Day Care surgeries with the average duration of 40 mins were taken under study. All the cases which are maintained by spontaneous mask ventilation were taken for study. The study cases had fasting period of 6 hrs. for solid food and 4 hrs. for clear fluids. All study cases were in the age group between 2 yrs. to 12 yrs. and are ASA GR I. Children with anaemia, CHD and any other associated medical abnormalities were excluded.

All the study cases were premedicated with I.V. atropine 10 mcg/kg body weight. Dexmedetomidine 1 mcg/kg body weight in 50 mL of Normal Saline was started and infused for 30 mins. Induction was done with Inj. Ketamine 2 mg/kg body weight I.V. Patients were maintained with O₂+N₂O on spontaneous ventilation by mask. Intraoperatively, PR/BP, SPO₂ was monitored. A regional block either Penile block/Inguinal nerve block was given to all cases wherever indicated. Postoperative recovery is monitored by Aldrete score, Sedation score (modified Ramsay scale) and Wong Baker Pain Rating Score along with cardiovascular monitoring.

Postoperative PR, BP, SpO₂, Sedation score, Aldrete scores and Pain score of each patients were noted for 2 hrs. All the patients were kept in PICU till they attain Aldrete score of 8- 10. All patients were looked for PONV. Ondansetron 0.2 mg/kg is given IV if child has PONV. All the patients were given 20 mg/kg of paracetamol suppository at the end of surgery. IV Fentanyl 0.5 mcg/kg bolus was considered as rescue analgesic in case if it is required. Bradycardia if occurred treated with a bolus dose of atropine 0.01 mg/kg. If Hypotension (>20 mmHg of preoperative level) is detected IV fluid ½ DNS 10 mL/kg was given bolus.

III. Results

Table 1: Patient demographics

No of cases	40
Boys	28
Girls	12
Mean Age	8.56 years
Mean weight	19 kgs

Table 2: Surgical profile

Name of surgery	No. Surgery
Anal Dilatation	2
Circumcision	14
Herniotomy	6
Cystoscopy	10
DJ Stent Removal	4
Collagen Graft Dressing	2
Suturing	2

Table 3: Haemodynamic Profile

Period	Mean PR/min	Mean BP mm Hg
Preoperative	110	54.02
Intraoperative		
5min	107.1	50.7
15 min	95.6	52
30 min	101.5	51
Postoperative		
15 min	100.4	52
30 min	107.1	52.6
1 hr	108.4	55
2 hrs	110.1	52.5

Table 4: Recovery Profile

	15 min	30 min	1 hr	2 hrs
Aldrete score	7	6	7	8
Sedation score	8	6	6	2
Pain score	0	2	2	4

One case had bradycardia with PR of 48/mins. during intraoperative period, which was treated with 0.1 mg/kg of atropine I.V. bolus. Postoperative sedation score during first 30 mins. in all cases was 6 [no reaction to painful stimulus] and at 120 mins. of postoperative period, sedation scores came to 2 [calm adequate cooperative]. Postoperative pain scores were 0 in first 30 mins. to all cases and were 2 after 2 hrs. [H].

IV. Discussion

Tarek Tammam in a comparative study of efficacy of dexmedetomidine-ketamine combination for MRI sedation. He found better sedation and better cardiovascular stability when compared to dexmedetomidine alone. In our study, we found satisfactory sedation and pain scores in 2 hrs. of postoperative period.

All the studies done were for invasive procedure and diagnostic procedures. Our study is to evaluate haemodynamic stability of Dexmedetomidine-Ketamine combination in paediatric day care surgeries.

Koruk et al⁶ prospectively compared sedation using Dexmedetomidine and Ketamine to a regimen using midazolam and ketamine during extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy in a Cohort of 50 paediatric patients who ranged in the age 2-15 yrs. They found the recovery sedation scores were similar in both the regimen. Incidence of nausea and vomiting was significantly lower in dexmedetomidine-ketamine combination. In our study, none of the patients had nausea and vomiting.

Joseph D Tobias⁷ in an article "Dexmedetomidine and Ketamine" in Paediatric Critical Care Medicine reported the potential utility of the combination of ketamine and dexmedetomidine for procedural sedation even in patients with compromised respiratory or cardiac function. When compared with other agents used for procedural sedation, these two agents have limited effects on respiratory function. Bloor, Ward et al⁸ used respiratory inductance plethysmography in their study to evaluate respiratory depression while using dexmedetomidine or propofol with ketamine. They found respiratory depression with these combination was rare and it was due to obstructive cause and not central cause. In our study, we did not detect any hypoventilation or desaturation in our patients.

Rakhee Goyal⁹ in an article in correspondence column in Paediatric Anaesthesia reported that Ketamine- Dexmedetomidine (available as "Ketodex") is a useful and practical alternative to standard drugs used in TIVA. Adverse effects are less during perioperative period and recovery time is more with this combination when compared to other drugs like propofol and midazolam. In our study, all cases had sedation scores were 6/5 for 1 hr. Sedation score of 2 (Arousable Sedation) after 2 hrs. of postoperative period.

Goyal R, Shivinder Singh et al used Dexmedetomidine- Ketamine combination in non-cardiac surgeries in patients with CHD. They found patients were haemodynamically stable with smooth recovery with this combination.¹⁰

V. Conclusion

This prospective observational study reveals that Anaesthesia with dexmedetomidine-Ketamine combination produces stable haemodynamic parameters during perioperative period. These two drugs make a perfect combination by one ameliorating the side effects of other drug. A smooth postoperative recovery without respiratory depression, nausea, vomiting is an added advantage. All the other studies on this combination, which were done on paediatric age group, had similar reports.

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