

Comparison between general anaesthesia and interscalen block in shoulder surgery

Abstract

In 1970, Winnie proposed the brachial plexus block as an alternative and effective anaesthesia technique for shoulder surgery.¹ Surgeons and patients are often reluctant to support regional anesthesia (RA) for shoulder and other orthopedic surgeries.² The aim of this study is to evaluate and compare the results between general anaesthesia and interscalen block in patients who underwent shoulder surgery.

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Purpose

The aim of this study is to evaluate and compare the results between general anaesthesia and interscalen block in patients who underwent shoulder surgery.



Methods

- 36 patients (September 2013 - November 2015).
- 24 males, 12 females.
- Main age 56 years old.
- Shoulder pathology included fractures, rotator cuff tears, subacromial decompression.
- 14 patients received general anaesthesia.
- 22 patients underwent a interscalen block as method for anaesthesia.
- For the block all the patients received 20 ml Naropeine 7.5% and 10 ml NaCl 0.9%.³⁻⁷





Results

- i. 2 of 22 patients received, during the beginning of surgery, general anaesthesia because of pain.
- ii. There were no other complications, regarding the anaesthesia, during the surgery.
- iii. The postoperative analgesia was 8 hours in average for the patients who underwent interscalen block.
- iv. None of the patients who underwent interscalen block received postoperatively any strong analgetics.
- v. In addition for the patients who received general anaesthesia the first dose of analgetics was in average 2.5 hours after surgery.

Conclusion

We believe that the use of interscalen block is a safe and secure method of anaesthesia for the shoulder surgery with excellent analgetics results.

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Conflicts of interest

None.

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