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# A Comparative Evaluation of Dexmedetomidine vs Clonidine used as Adjuvants with Hyperbaric Bupivacaine in Patients with Preeclampsia Undergoing LSCS

Ruchi Tandon<sup>1</sup>, Avani Tiwari<sup>2</sup>, Antima Singh<sup>3</sup>

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## Abstract

Relief of operative as well as post operative pain should be the prime responsibility of an anesthesiologists. The most common treatment for post operative pain remains conventional intramuscular injection of narcotics which are associated with several side effects like nausea, vomiting, itching, hypotension, bradycardia, urinary retention, dysphoria, respiratory depression, early and later. Pregnancy induced hypertension is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in obstetrics, complicating 3-8% of pregnancies. Severe preeclampsia poses a dilemma for anesthesiologists, and there is some controversy about the best anaesthetic technique for caesarean delivery in such cases. Though spinal anesthesia reduces the risk of airway instrumentation in high risk patients of preeclampsia, there are still limitations about its limited duration of analgesia. In present study we intend to compare dexmedetomidine and clonidine used with hyperbaric bupivacaine for spinal anaesthesia in patients with preeclampsia undergoing LSCS.

**Primary Objective:** To compare the clinical efficacy of intra the dexmedetomidine vs Clonidine on: (a) Onset and duration of sensory block (b) Onset and duration of motor block (c) Duration of analgesia (d) Side effects if any.

**Secondary Objective:** to compare the haemodynamic profile among patients of the two group.

**Methodology:** All eligible patients were randomly assigned into two groups of 50 each by chit and envelope method: Group A: SAB was given with 2ml, 0.5 % Bupivacaine(H) + 45 µg Clonidine. Group B: SAB to be given with 2ml, 0.5% Bupivacaine (H) + 5µg dexmedetomidine.

**Results:** Regression of sensory block was prolonged in group B as compared to group A. (p value <0.0001). There was regression of motor block in group B as compared to group A. p value <0.0001. Heart rate remained stable and comparable at different time points in 2 groups. Except three patients in group A and one patient in group B, no other patient in either group developed bradycardia. Three patients in group A and in group B developed hypotension which responded to intravenous fluid therapy. Sedation score decreased to 0 within 5 hours. At no time, sedation score exceeded 2 and no patient developed signs of respiratory depression.

**Conclusion:** Dexmedetomidine in the dose of 5µg added to 10 mg 0.5% Hyperbaric Bupivacaine in SAB for LSCS surgery in parturients with preeclampsia provides comparable onset for sensory and motor blockade but significantly prolonged duration as compared to 45µg of clonidine. Longer duration of postoperative analgesia with 5µg Dexmedetomidine makes it superior to clonidine in respect to postoperative analgesia. Both the drugs produce desirable level of intraoperative and postoperative sedation, stable hemodynamics and minimal side effects.

**Keywords:** Dexmedetomidine; Clonidine; preeclampsia; spinal anesthesia.

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## Introduction

Relief of operative as well as post operative pain is important because it interferes with respiration, bowel movements and micturition. The most common treatment for post operative pain remains conventional intramuscular injection of one of the strongest analgesics such as morphine, pethidine, pentazocine etc. These parenteral narcotics are associated with several side effects like nausea, vomiting, itching, hypotension, bradycardia, urinary retention, dysphoria, respiratory depression, early and later.<sup>1</sup>

Surgical trauma is real and severe tissue damage and surgical pain is a universal phenomenon which is aggravated by associated muscle spasm and visceral distention. By rendering the patient pain free during surgery, anaesthesiologists have succeeded to a considerable extent, but once the luxury of pain free surgery is over, the patient has to face the misery of post operative pain.

Pregnancy induced hypertension is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in obstetrics, complicating 6-8% of pregnancies.<sup>2</sup> Severe preeclampsia poses a dilemma for anaesthesiologists, and there is some controversy about the best anaesthetic technique for caesarean delivery in such cases. Because of the risks related to airway edema, difficulty with the airway or failed intubation, hypertensive response to direct laryngoscopy, and aspiration pneumonitis, general anaesthesia is associated with more untoward outcomes in this particular group of patients. Spinal anaesthesia has the advantage of simplicity of technique, rapid onset of action and reliability in producing uniform sensory and motor blockade. Its main disadvantage relates to its limited duration of action and hence, lack of long lasting post operative analgesia. To overcome this problem, administration of local anaesthetics in combination with different adjuvants is an excellent technique which not only relieves postoperative pain but also refines the quality of sensory and motor blockade of subarachnoid block and hence, acts as synergistic to local anaesthetics with lower local anaesthetic requirement, decreased side effect and excellent post operative analgesia.

Spinal anaesthesia has the advantage of simplicity of technique, rapid onset of action and reliability in producing uniform sensory and motor blockade. Its main disadvantage relates to its limited duration of action and hence, lack of long lasting post operative analgesia. To overcome this problem, administration of local anaesthetics in combination with different adjuvants is an excellent technique

which not only relieves postoperative pain but also refines the quality of sensory and motor blockade of subarachnoid block.<sup>1</sup>

## Materials and Method

After approval from Institutional Ethics Committee, written informed consent was obtained from all patients. Patients with preeclampsia were drawn from those scheduled for operations requiring subarachnoid block for LSCS. 100 ASA I and II patients are randomized into groups using envelope method.

### Inclusion Criteria

Full term parturients with Pre-eclampsia scheduled for LSCS.

- Systolic BP >140mm and < 160 mmHg, Diastolic BP > 90mm and < 110 mmHg.
- Proteinuria < 5 gm in 24 hour urine sample or ½+ on dipstick urine test.

### Exclusive Criteria

- Patients with severe preeclampsia.
- Height < 147 cm and > 170 cm.
- Weight > 90 kg.
- Patients with local infection, abscess.
- Patients with known local anaesthetic hypersensitivity.
- Patients with coagulopathies.
- Opioid dependence.
- ASA III, IV patients.
- Patients refusal, spinal deformity and any other contraindications to spinal anaesthesia.

All eligible patients were randomly assigned into two groups of 50 each by chit and envelope method: **Group A:** SAB was given with 2ml, 0.5 % Bupivacaine(H) + 45 µg; **Group B:** SAB to be given with 2ml, 0.5% Bupivacaine (H) + 5µg dexmedetomidine.

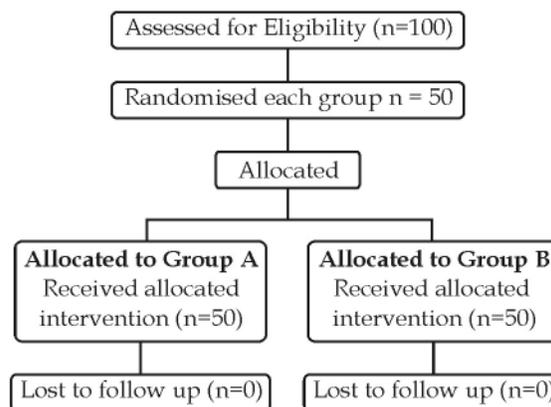
After Pre-anaesthetic assessment of the patient, patients were explained about the procedure, consents were taken. Inside the OT multi-para monitoring was done. A venous access was secured using 16 or 18G cannula and the patient was preloaded with ringer lactate (15-20 ml/kg) before the induction of spinal anaesthesia. SAB will be performed at L3-4 or L4-5 intervertebral space with the patient in sitting and lateral decubitus position under complete asepsis a disposable 25G spinal Quincke needle. Our study was doubly blinded, both the observer and the patient were not informed about the drug combinations. Total

volume of drug injected was 2.3 ml in each group. The onset of sensory block was recorded using Hollmen scale. (Time zero to Hollmen scale to reach T6 level) The onset of motor block was evaluated using the bromage scale.<sup>3</sup> (Time zero to bromage scale grade 4). If hypotension occurs (systolic blood pressure lower than 20% of baseline value), it was treated with 5 mg boluses of intravenous ephedrine. Injection atropine 0.6 mg intravenous was administered if bradycardia (HR<50 beats per minute) occurs. Oxygen was administered through simple facemask at 5 L/min. Side effects such as hypotension (SBP < 20% of the initial value), bradycardia (HR<50 bpm), nausea, vomiting, dry mouth, pruritus and shivering will be recorded.

**Results**

The present study included 100 patients. Patients

**Consort Diagram**



characteristics in terms of age and weight were comparable in both the groups (p > 0.05).

**Table 1:** Showing Comparison of Sensory Characteristics of Subarachnoid Block Between two Groups.

Variables	Group A	Group B	P value
Highest sensory level achieved(range)	T <sub>6</sub> -T <sub>8</sub>	T <sub>6</sub> -T <sub>8</sub>	0.1713
Onset of sensory block(min) at L1	01.4± 00.45	01.50± 00.40	0.2466
Onset of sensory block (min) at T10	03.32 ± 01.17	03.59± 00.68	0.1703
Onset of sensory block(min) at highest sensory level	10.45± 01.91	10.99± 01.69	0.1364
Time to reach peak of sensory block(min) till L1	02.71± 00.84	02.9± 00.47	0.3591
Time to reach peak of sensory block(min) till T10	04.64±01.36	04.81±00.93	0.4555
Time to reach highest sensory level	14.69±01.36	16.26±0.72	0.1218
Time for 2 segment regression (min)	120.9±24.61	147.04±32.09	<0.0001
Time for complete regression (min)	264.8±38.87	325.76±38.49	<0.0001

Chi-square

**Table 2:** Showing Comparison of motor Characteristics of Subarachnoid Block Between two Groups

Variables	Group A	Group B	P value
Time to achieve grade I motor block (min)	03.72±00.78	03.75±00.88	0.8582
Time to achieve grade II motor block (min)	05.95±01.13	05.92±01.15	0.8964
Time to achieve grade III motor block(min)	10.91±01.85	10.88±01.72	0.9335
Regression of motor block to previous grade	147.18±24.94	161.38±24.05	<0.0001
Time to complete regression of motor block	194.72±22.57	213.44±22.27	<0.0001

Chi-square

**Table 3:** Showing Comparison of Sensory Characteristics of Subarachnoid Block Between two Groups.

Variables	Group A	Group B	P Value	
Highest Sensory level achieved (Range)	T <sub>6</sub> -T <sub>8</sub>	T <sub>6</sub> -T <sub>8</sub>	0.1713	
Onset of sensory block (min)	At L1dermatome	01.4+ 00.45	01.4+ 00.45	0.2466
	At T10dermatome	03.32+ 01.17	03.59+ 00.68	0.1703
	At highest sensory level	10.45+ 01.91	10.99+ 01.69	0.1364
Time to reach peak of sensory block (min)	At L1dermatome	02.71+ 00.84	02.9+ 00.47	0.3591
	At T10dermatome	04.64+ 01.36	04.81+ 00.93	0.4555
	Highest Sensory level	14.69+ 01.36	16.26+ 0.72	0.4555
Time for regression of sensory block (min)	2 Segment regression	120.9+ 24.61	147.04+ 32.09	<0.0001
	Complete regression	264.8+ 38.87	325.76+ 38.49	<0.0001

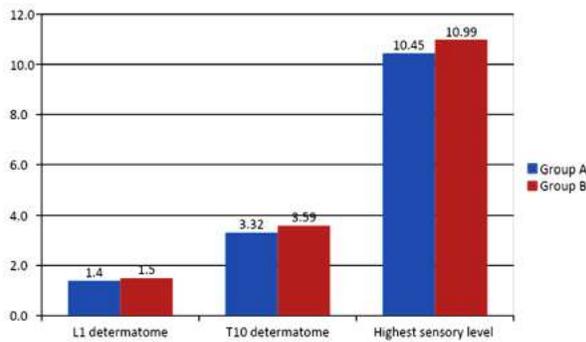
Values given in Mean + SD.

**Inference**

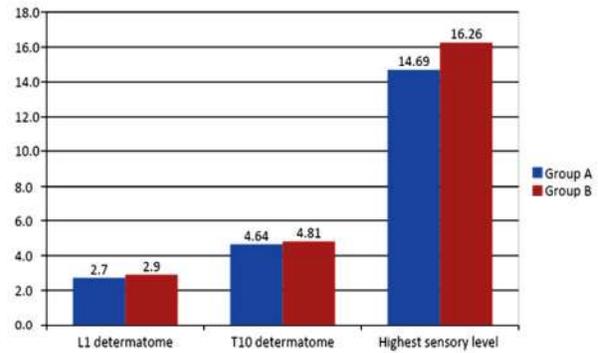
There was no statistically significant difference in mean time for onset, peak of sensory block in two groups. There was statistically significant difference in two segment and complete regression of sensory block. Regression of sensory block was prolonged in group b as compared to group A, ( $P < 0.001$ ).

**Fig. 3:** Showing Comparison of Sensory Characteristics of Subarachnoid Block Between Two Groups:

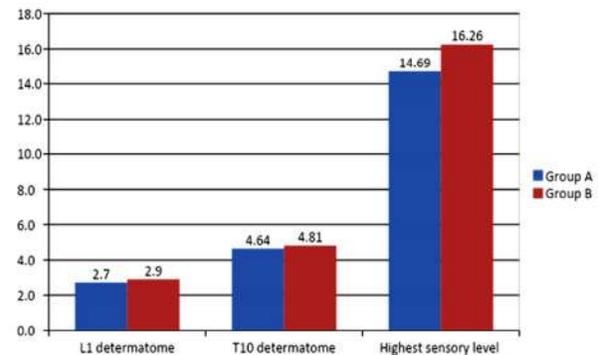
Bar diagram 3A: Onset of sensory blockade



Bar diagram 3B: Time to reach peak of sensory blockade



Bar diagram 3C: Time for regression of sensory blockade

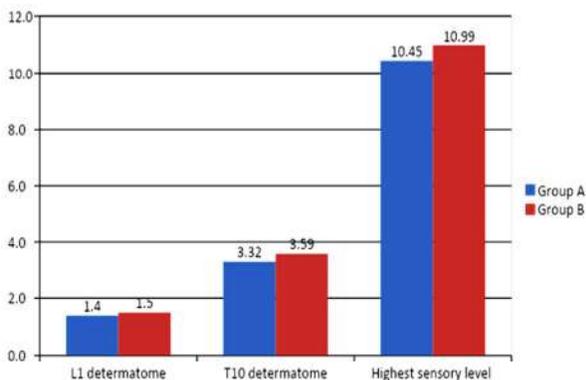


**Table 4:** Showing Comparison of Motor Characteristics of Subarachnoid Block Between Two Groups

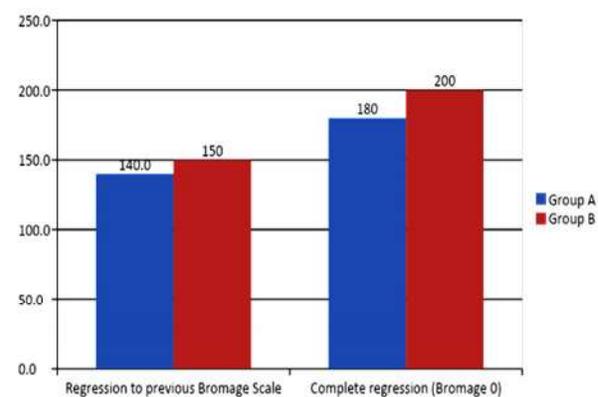
Variables	Group A (Mean+SD)	Group B (Mean + SD)	P Value
Time to achieve grade I motor block (min)	03.72 +00.78	03.75 +00.88	0.8582
Time to achieve grade II motor block (min)	05.95 +01.13	05.92 +01.15	0.8964
Time to achieve grade III motor block (min)	10.91 +01.85	10.88 +01.72	0.9335
Time to achieve grade IV motor block (min)	147.18 +24.94	161.38 +24.05	<0.0001
Time to complete regression of motor block	194.72 +22.57	213.44 +22.27	<0.0001

**Fig.1:** Showing Comparison of Sensory Characteristics of Subarachnoid Block between two Groups

Bar diagram: Onset of sensory blockade in two groups

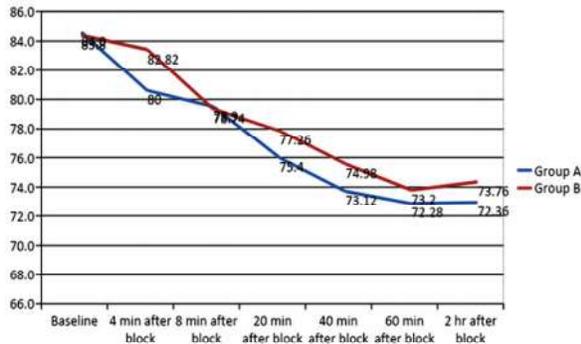


Bar diagram: Regression of motor blockade in two groups



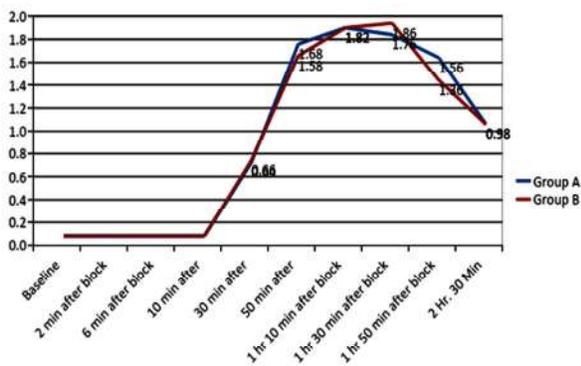
**Fig. 2:** Showing Statistical Analysis of Pulse Rate (Per/Min) Between Two Groups

Line diagram



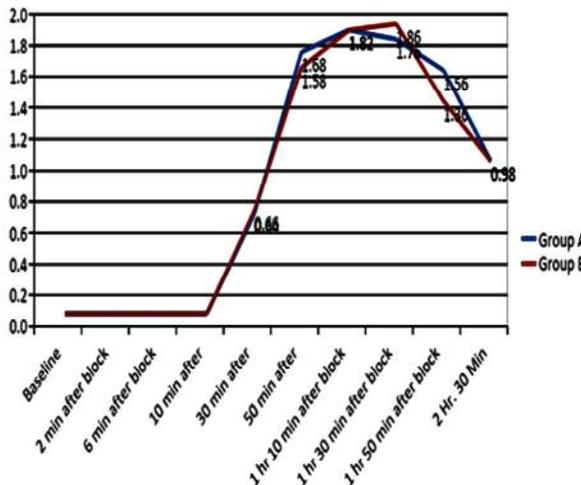
**Fig. 4:** Line diagram: Showing Statistical Analysis of SpO2 between two groups

Line Diagram: Changes in SpO2 between two groups.



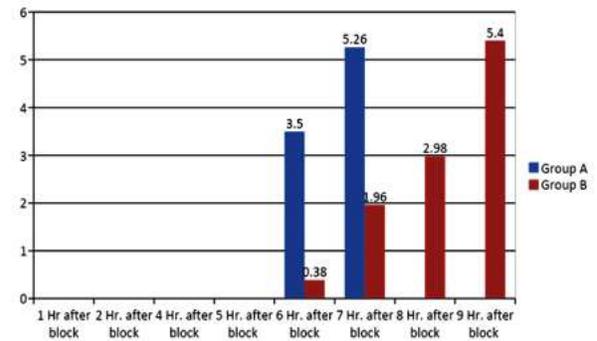
**Fig. 5:** Showing Distribution of Sedation Score Between Two Groups.

Line Diagram: Sedation score between two groups



**Fig. 6:** Showing Statistical Analysis of Visual Analogue Scale Between Two Groups

Bar Diagram: Visual Analogue scale and time of first rescue analgesic required in two groups



**Table 3:** Showing Complications in Two Groups

Complications	Group A No. of patients (%)	Group B No. of patients (%)
Hypotension	3 06%	3 06%
Bradycardia	3 06%	1 02%
Nausea-vomiting	4 08%	6 12%
Headache	0 00%	0 00%
Respiratory depression	0 00%	0 00%
Neurological complication	0 00%	0 00%

## Discussion

Dexmedetomidine hydrochloride, a newer agent within the class of  $\alpha_2$  adrenoceptor agonist, delivers clinically effective sedation within analgesic property for use in intensive care unit setting. Additionally, it has an ability to eliminate or reduce the need for other analgesic medications. There is no evidence of respiratory depression with dexmedetomidine. Because of its selective  $\alpha_2$  receptor activity, use of dexmedetomidine has modest and predictable haemodynamic effects, making it a popular sedative and analgesic drug in ICU.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Dexmedetomidine is now being used outside the ICU in variety of clinical settings, including sedation and adjunct analgesia in the operating room and for post operative analgesia.<sup>4,5</sup>

Though clonidine, an older member of  $\alpha_2$  adrenoceptor family, has well established record of efficacy and safety as an adjuvant to local anesthetic in subarachnoid block,<sup>9,15,16</sup> dexmedetomidine

is yet to be established for this purpose. We decided to study the efficacy and safety profile of Dexmedetomidine versus clonidine in combination with local anaesthetic in subarachnoid block in pts. Of preeclampsia undergoing LSCS.

Present study showed that the supplementation of 10 mg of spinal Bupivacaine with 45 µg clonidine or 5µg dexmedetomidine did not show any significant difference in the time for onset and peak of sensory blockade. But addition of 5 µg dexmedetomidine showed significantly prolonged two segment regression and total duration of sensory blockade. Dexmedetomidine also showed longer postoperative analgesia period of 9 hours as compared to 7 hours in clonidine group. Findings of our study are similar to the findings reported by G.E Kanazi et al.<sup>8</sup> Rampalsingh et al<sup>15</sup> concluded that there was no significant difference in onset of sensory and motor block. Rampal Singh et al also concluded that total duration of sensory and motor block was prolonged with Dexmedetomidine as compared to clonidine. Solanki S L et al concluded that addition of dexmedetomidine to intrathecal Bupivacaine produces longer post operative analgesia than clonidine.

The mechanism by which intrathecal  $\alpha_2$  adrenoceptor agonists prolonged the motor and sensory block is not well understood. It is not a result of altered systemic absorption, as the plasma level of Bupivacaine is not altered after the addition of intrathecal clonidine to Bupivacaine. It may be an additive or synergistic effect secondary to the different mechanism of action of local anesthetic and  $\alpha_2$  receptor agonist.

The local anaesthetic acts by blocking the Na<sup>+</sup> channels, whereas  $\alpha_2$  receptor agonist acts by binding to presynaptic C fibers and post synaptic dorsal horn neurons. Intrathecal  $\alpha_2$  adrenoceptor agonists produce analgesia by depressing the release of C fiber transmitters and by hyperpolarisation of post synaptic dorsal horn neurons.<sup>6,7,13,14,18</sup> These  $\alpha_2$  adrenergic receptors are located on the superficial laminae of spinal cord and brain stem nuclei implicated in pain, so analgesia can be produced at peripheral, spinal and brain stem sites.<sup>12</sup> Intrathecal  $\alpha_2$  receptor agonist have been found to have antinociceptive effect for both somatic and visceral pain.

$\alpha_2$  adrenergic agonists are known to cause bradycardia. Mechanism of bradycardia is presynaptic feedback inhibition of norepinephrine release and possible vagomimetic effect on nucleus tractus solitaries by  $\alpha_2$  agonist.<sup>12</sup> In the present study, 1 patient in the dexmedetomidine group and

3 patients in the clonidine group, presented with bradycardia. Use of low doses of Dexmedetomidine and clonidine in the present study may be responsible for low incidence of bradycardia.

In this study, addition of dexmedetomidine did not cause significant fall in the blood pressure intraoperatively and postoperatively. 3 patients in the dexmedetomidine group and 3 patients in the clonidine group developed hypotension which responded to intravenous fluid therapy and is statistically not significant. Intrathecal local anaesthetics block the sympathetic outflow and reduce the blood pressure. Sympathetic block is near maximum with the doses of local anaesthetic used for spinal anaesthesia. The addition of low dose of  $\alpha_2$  agonist to high dose of local anaesthetics does not further affect the near maximal sympatholysis.<sup>6</sup>

Intrathecally administered  $\alpha_2$  adrenoceptor agonists have a dose dependent sedative effect.<sup>8, 10, 11, 16, 17</sup> The dose of Dexmedetomidine and clonidine selected in this study did not produce excessive sedation, as at no time, sedation score exceeded two and no patient developed respiratory depression or fall in SPO<sub>2</sub>. In fact, the sedation produced by Dexmedetomidine and Clonidine was found to be desirable as all the patients remained calm and quite in intraoperative and postoperative period.

The only side effect noted was nausea and vomiting but it was not clinically and statistically significant and its incidence was comparable in both the groups.

## Conclusion

Addition of 45µg of clonidine or 5µg Dexmedetomidine as an adjuvant to 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine in subarachnoid block provides comparable time for onset and peak of sensory and motor block but significantly prolonged, duration of motor blockade, duration of postoperative analgesia with Dexmedetomidine as compared to clonidine. Both the drugs as an adjuvant to bupivacaine in subarachnoid block produced effective and safe level of sedation the intraoperative and postoperative period extending upto 5 hours. Stable haemodynamics establishes the safety of both drugs in the doses used in present study. There was no steep fall in BP/HR. BP was maintained throughout surgery and postoperatively too.

In conclusion, Dexmedetomidine in the dose of 5µg added to 10 mg 0.5% Hyperbaric Bupivacaine in SAB for LSCS surgery in parturients with preeclampsia provides comparable onset for sensory

and motor blockade but significantly prolonged duration as compared to 45µg of clonidine. Longer duration of postoperative analgesia with 5µg Dexmedetomidine makes it superior to clonidine in respect to postoperative analgesia. Both the drugs produce desirable level of intraoperative and postoperative sedation, stable haemodynamics and minimal side effects.

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# Comparative Evaluation of Effect, Onset & Duration of Intranasal Dexmedetomidine Vs Midazolam for Paediatric Sedation During Diagnostic CT Scan

Somiya Gautam<sup>1</sup>, Ashwin Sonkamble<sup>2</sup>, Poornima Sonkamble<sup>3</sup>, Usha Badole<sup>4</sup>

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## Abstract

**Background:** Separation anxiety among children is common and normal. Children undergoing radiological imaging studies often require sedation to avoid panic episodes & severe anxiety for induction of Anaesthesia. It is important for the child to lie still during the scanning procedure & mostly we find it difficult for the children to keep still during a CT scan, which is usually about 10-15 minutes.

This study aimed at comparing and evaluating the efficacy of use of intranasally administered Dexmedetomidine Vs intranasal midazolam for paediatric sedation undergoing diagnostic CT scan studies.

**Methods:** 100 paediatric patients within age group 1-10 years were divided into 2 groups of 50 patients each, Group I & II respectively, were given either intranasal Dexmedetomidine or Intranasal Midazolam. The depth of sedation was assessed by using University of Michigan sedation scale.

**Results:** This study concluded that Intranasal Dexmedetomidine is superior & more effective than Midazolam for pediatric sedation.

**Keywords:** Intranasal; Dexmedetomidine; Midazolam; Pediatrics; Children; Sedation; CT Scan.

## Introduction

Mostly we find it difficult for the children to keep still during a CT scan study, which is usually about 10-15 minutes duration. Children undergoing radiological imaging studies often require sedation to avoid panic episodes & anxiety from parental separation. Therefore, it is important for the child to lie still during the scanning procedure for proper

diagnostic studies for early definitive management.

To avoid spontaneous movements that can interfere during diagnostic studies, intranasal sedative medications can be useful in paediatric patients undergoing diagnostic CT Scan.

There are a number of methods which can be employed to limit the movement of the child during a scan.<sup>1</sup> Non-pharmacological<sup>2</sup> Sedation

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and<sup>3</sup> General anaesthesia (GA).

Non-pharmacological interventions include behavioural and cognitive approaches such as desensitization, distraction and relaxation.

A pharmacological agent should have rapid onset and offset, predictable duration, minimal side effects and rapid recovery, easy availability and ability to decrease anaesthetic drug requirement.<sup>11</sup> In young children, particularly in those with behavioural difficulties, it can be difficult for them to keep still for the length of the time required. In these children, sedation and GA need to be considered.

Historically, chloral hydrate and pentobarbital have been the drug of choice for paediatric sedation in radiology departments. Because of their extended half-life, they have been associated with prolonged recovery times and sedation-related morbidity. In an effort to decrease our rate of failed sedations, reduce our recovery room time and improve our adverse event rate, other pharmacological agents had been introduced.<sup>1</sup>

There are many i.v. sedative agents available for pediatric imaging including Dexmedetomidine, Midazolam, Etomidate and Propofol. Amongst these, Midazolam and Dexmedetomidine are commonly used due to minimal side effects.

Therefore, the purpose of this study was to evaluate the preprocedural sedative effects, anxiety level changes and the ease of child-parent separation, and the recovery profile of preprocedure intranasal Dexmedetomidine sedation compared with that of intranasal Midazolam in children scheduled for diagnostic CT Scan.

## Materials & Methods

After Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) approval, a prospective, observational study was done in randomly 100 paediatric patients aged between 1 and 10 years of age, which were under American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) grade I and II undergoing diagnostic CT scan study. An informed written consent was taken from parents/guardians of children prior to this study.

Children aged between 1-10 years, with ASA grade I & II undergoing elective minor procedures or radiological scans were included in this study. Children aged >10 years, with otorhinological diseases or respiratory or cardiac diseases, contraindicated for CT scan, known case of allergy to Dexmedetomidine or Midazolam, patients previously on any other sedatives, were excluded in this study.

All patients underwent pre-anaesthetic check-up (PAC) for detail history, examination and appropriate investigations including serum creatinine levels. All patients were kept Nil by Mouth (NBM) for 4-6 hours. On the day of procedure, NBM status and written consent was confirmed.

In both groups, intravenous (IV) line was secured using 22 or 24G cannula in either of the limbs.

Monitors viz, Electrocardiogram (ECG), Pulse-Oximeter were attached and the baseline values of heart rate (HR), oxygen saturation (Spo2), ECG & the state of alertness were observed before administering the drug followed by the time of administration, onset of action & duration of drug on the children were noted.

Group I received Intranasal Dexmedetomidine 2mcg/kg & Group II received Intranasal Midazolam 0.2mg/kg, then Oxygen was applied through the face mask at the flows of 4-5 L/min.

The vitals including HR, SP02, ECG & sedation score were recorded at the baseline, then after 5mins interval, then 10, 15 & 30 mins interval. Onset and degree of sedation in both groups was assessed at 0, 5, 10, 15 and 30 minutes.

The accurate monitoring for depth of sedation is very important. In our study, we have used University of Michigan Sedation Scale (UMSS) for sedation score.

### *University of Michigan Sedation Scale (UMSS)*<sup>12</sup>

**Score 0:** Awake and Alert

**Score 1:** Minimally sedated Tired/sleepy, appropriate response to verbal conversation and/or sound.

**Score 2:** Moderately sedated- Somnolent/sleeping, easily aroused with light tactile stimulation or a simple verbal command.

**Score 3:** Deeply sedated Deep sleep, arousable only with significant physical stimulation.

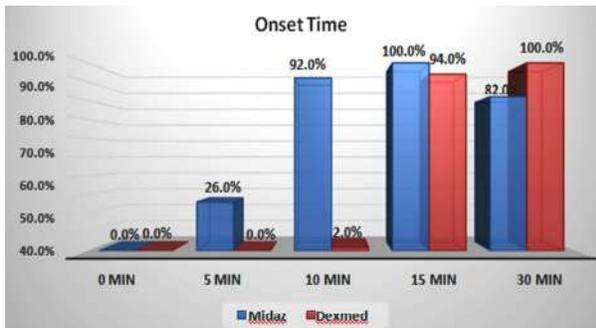
**Score 4:** Unarousable.

Afterwards, the paediatric patients were monitored for 30 mins postprocedural in post-anaesthesia recovery unit with oxygen administration via facemask.

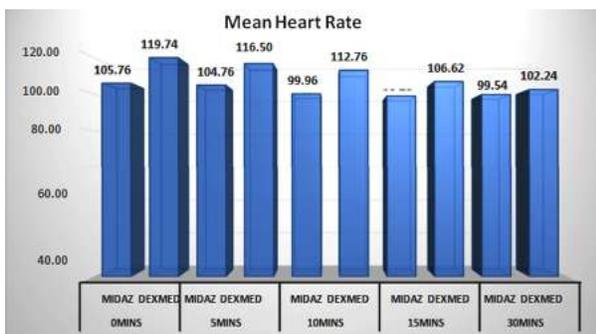
## Results

A total of 100 pediatric patients were included in our study. Both the groups were comparable with respect to baseline demographic variables like age, gender, height and weight.

**Table 1:** Comparison of Onset.

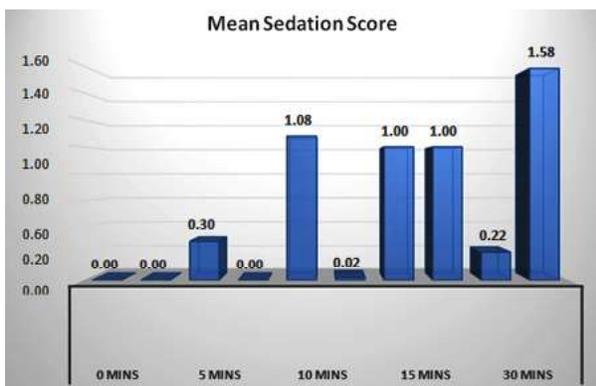


**Table 2:** Comparison of Heart Rate.



There was no significant difference between the groups.

**Table 3:** Comparison of Sedation Score.



**Result:** Overall, in the Dexmedetomidine group there was a higher incidence of satisfactory sedation at separation from parents than in the midazolam group, a reduced incidence of postprocedure agitation, and a significant reduction in the rescue doses of analgesic drugs in the Dexmedetomidine group.

## Discussion

Children undergoing radiological imaging studies often require sedation to avoid panic episodes & severe anxiety. The risk factors which seem to be

associated with high incidence of perioperative anxiety in children include: age 1 to 10 years, previous poor quality medical encounters, poor social adaptability and increased parental anxiety.<sup>11</sup> Maladaptive behavioural response such as general anxiety, night-time crying, enuresis, separation anxiety occur in up to 44% of children two weeks after procedure.<sup>5</sup>

Fear of physicians, injections, procedure and CT room in children is much more than in adults. Separation from the parents to a totally unknown world with unknown faces makes the procedural experience more traumatic for young children. Despite the many advances in non-pharmacologic interventions, practitioners still rely on sedative premedicants.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, sedation by pharmacological means is required. The ideal pharmacological agent should have rapid onset, predictable duration & rapid recovery.<sup>5</sup>

Dexmedetomidine provides conscious sedation, anxiolysis and analgesic effects without causing respiratory depression.<sup>6</sup> Midazolam, has become the most frequently used pre-anaesthesia medication given to children, by multiple routes of administration. It has a faster onset and limited duration of action when administered intranasally.<sup>6,9</sup>

Intranasal route is noninvasive, convenient, and easy, not requiring much of patient co-operation and fast onset of action.<sup>9,5</sup>

Compared with midazolam premedication, Dexmedetomidine premedication reduced the HR during the preprocedural sedation period after induction. Dexmedetomidine is known to decrease sympathetic outflow and circulating catecholamine levels and therefore would cause a decrease in HR.<sup>9</sup> There was no evidence of oxygen desaturation, respiratory depression, or apnea in our study, which was similar to the study done by Davis et al, on 88 children, which indicates that the doses used for both intranasal administered Midazolam and Dexmedetomidine are safe and comparable to the findings of other studies.<sup>10</sup>

Even, the use of Dexmedetomidine can provide additional analgesic benefits for pediatric patients following premedication and therefore, the patients treated with Dexmedetomidine required less postprocedural rescue analgesia as observed in one of the study.<sup>6</sup>

The Study included a total of 100 paediatric patients who were randomly divided into one of the following two groups (50 each) using random numbers: Group A-receiving intranasal

Dexmedetomidine 2ug/kg and; Group B-receiving intranasal Midazolam 0.2mg/kg. Onset and degree of sedation in both group was assessed at 0, 5, 10, 15 and 30 minutes. Whether parental separation at the time of induction was successful was recorded. Both the groups were comparable with respect to baseline demographic variables like age, gender and BMI. By the end of 5 and 10 minutes, sedation was achieved in 26% and 92% of the cases of Midazolam group as compared to 0% and 2% of the cases in Dexmedetomidine group. By the end of 15 minutes, the difference was non-significant 83 (100% vs 94%; p-0.24). At the end of 15 minutes, sedation was achieved in 100% and 94% of the cases in Midazolam & Dexmedetomidine group respectively.

In the present study, successful parental separation was seen in 80% cases of Dexmedetomidine group as compared to 48% cases in Midazolam group respectively. Therefore, Dexmedetomidine premedication of paediatric patients resulted in more satisfactory separation from parents compared with midazolam.

### Limitations & Drawbacks

We accept the fact that there are some major drawbacks in our study. First of all the sample size is very small to have a significant power of analysis. Secondly, we have studied only the patients in 1-10 years of age group scheduled for diagnostic CT Scan study. The differences in age may have influenced some of the results because the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics between younger and older children vary. Third, significant heterogeneity was observed in some of the analyses (separation from parents, HR and sedation score preprocedural); therefore, the results should be assessed with caution. Finally, although considerable clinical data have been reported, Dexmedetomidine is not approved for use in children in many country. Thus, its use in children is considered cautious in its administration to at-risk patients is warranted.

### Conclusion

This study compares two intranasal drugs i.e, Dexmedetomidine and Midazolam in achieving adequate sedation in paediatric population undergoing diagnostic CT Scan and concluded that the Dexmedetomidine is superior to Midazolam premedication because it resulted in excellent separation from parents and reduced post-procedure agitation & pain. Midazolam though has early onset but shorter duration of action and

may require post-procedural rescue analgesia, while Dexmedetomidine has relatively late onset but longer duration of action & post-procedural analgesia & is more effective compared to Midazolam.

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# COVID 19 Patients with Pregnancy Anesthetic Management Case Series

Mathew George<sup>1</sup>, Ravi Madhusudhana<sup>2</sup>, Naga Seshu Kumari Vasantha<sup>3</sup>,  
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## Abstract

**Introduction:** Case series helps us to evaluate management and safety of spinal anesthesia for caesarean delivery in pregnant women with COVID-19 infection.

**Case Series:** We hereby report the management of three COVID-19 positive pregnant women undergoing caesarean section in our hospital. Patients presented with mild symptoms of COVID 19. Routine investigations and COVID -19 markers were evaluated. Anesthesia and operation went uneventfully.

**Conclusion:** Health care providers and babies were not infected with virus. Precautionary measures and strategies were of utmost importance to lower virus contagion risk. Spinal anesthesia was preferred over GA.

**Keywords:** Caesarean section, COVID-19, Pregnant, Spinal Anesthesia.

**Key Messages:** When confronted with caesarean section in parturient with COVID-19, careful planning and detailed preparation improved the safety of the mother and infant and reduced the risk of infection for medical staff.

## Introduction

COVID 19 infection caused by corona virus is extremely contagious and can cause severe acute respiratory tract infection. COVID-19 infection can spread to other pregnant women and health care workers. Hence management of such patients is of

utmost importance.<sup>1</sup>

Pregnant women with mild infection may present with fever, fatigue, dry cough, but severe infection may progress rapidly to acute respiratory distress syndrome, septic shock, intractable acidosis and coagulopathy.<sup>2</sup>

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During caesarean section generation of infectious agents such as blood, amniotic fluid, creates a challenge for healthcare workers in keeping the mother and neonate safe, while protecting themselves against infection.<sup>3</sup>

We hereby report the management of three COVID-19 positive pregnant women undergoing caesarean section in our hospital.

### Case Series

**Case 1:** A 21 year old patient, primigravida 39 weeks gestation age was referred to RLJH, in view of being tested positive for COVID-19. Patient was asymptomatic at the time of presentation. Patient had a primary contact with her brother who was tested positive for COVID-19. Patient was not vaccinated for COVID-19. LSCS was done. Baby was tested on using RT PCR and was negative. Patient spo 2 was 93% on room air. Fig. 1 shows her chest x-ray with mild opacities.



Fig. 1: Case 1 CXR with mild opacities.

**Case 2:** A 19 year old patient, primigravida with 39 weeks gestation age with COVID-19 positive status was referred to RLJH, after she had tested positive for COVID-19. None of her family members were tested positive for COVID 19. Patient had mild fever at the time of presentation. Patient was not vaccinated for COVID-19. LSCS was done. Baby was tested using RT PCR and was negative. Patient spo 2 was 89% at room air. Fig. 2 shows her chest x ray with moderate opacities.



Fig. 2: Case 2nd CXR with moderate opacities.

**Case 3:** A 21 year old patient, primigravida with 40 weeks gestation age with cephalic presentation with COVID-19 positive status was referred to RLJH, after she had tested positive for COVID-19. None of her family members were tested positive for COVID 19. Patient had mild fever and sore throat at the time of presentation. Patient was not vaccinated for COVID-19. LSCS was done. Baby was tested using RT PCR and was negative. Patient spo 2 was 90 at room air. Fig. 3 shows chest x ray of this patient.

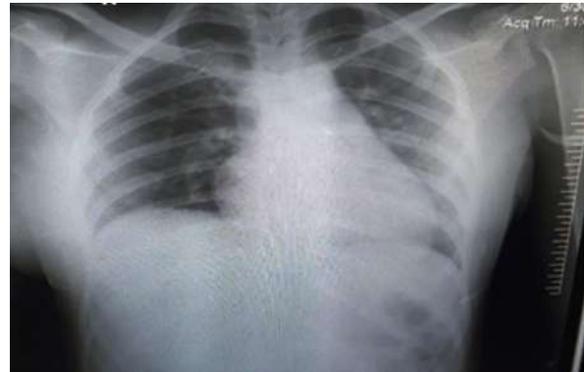


Fig. 3: Case 3rd CXR.

### Anesthetic Management

Patient was shifted to designated COVID-19 OT with a surgical triple layer mask covering the face. Anesthesiologist wearing Level 3 PPE assessed the patient and his reports just outside operating room then explained regarding spinal anesthesia. Anesthesiologist after checking routine and covid related investigations (Table 1) started case. It was the duty of helper to spray the sodium hypochlorite solution (1%) on the footprints of the trolley.

Table 1: Investigations of 3 cases.

Findings	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Normal Range
Neutrophils	75%	77%	78%	<45
Lymphocytes	16.50%	17%	14.80%	20 to 40%
N/L	4.54	4.52	5.27	.78 to 3.53
D dimer	1101.2 ng/ml	810.2ng/ml	1204.83 ng/ml	<250ng/ml
Ferritin	43.1 ng/ml	55.4 ng/ml	16.5 ng/ml	20 to 250mg/ml
LDH	278 u/l	235u/l	245 u/l	110 to 210 u/L
CRP	Negative	Negative	Positive	Negative

Abbreviations: N/L neutrophils/lymphocytes, LDH lactate dehydrogenase, CRP-C reactive protein.

Electrocardiogram, blood pressure, saturation and vitals were monitored keenly. Anesthesiologist after assessing the patient changed his outer gloves with the help of operating room circulating nurse, thereby maintaining proper hand hygiene. The patient was made to sit at the side of the table with help of anesthesia technicians. As per standard aseptic precautions concerned site was painted with betadine and spirit. Local anesthesia was then given (2mL of 2% lignocaine). At the level of L4-L5 a 25-gauge spinal needle was inserted, and 2 mL of heavy bupivacaine 0.5% was given after confirming free backflow of CSF. Patient then made to lie in supine position. Vitals were monitored. Spinal anesthesia was tested, and it was found adequate. The obstetrician went ahead with caesarean section. During the course of procedure patient vitals including blood pressure was noted to be stable. There was no need to give mephenteramine. After delivery of the baby, sample of the amniotic fluid was taken, and the baby was handed over to the neonatologist, who performed the polymerase chain reaction COVID-19 swab. Before exiting the operation theatre, the anesthesia team removed their PPE kits according to hospital protocol.

## Discussion

In our hospital, we had a COVID-19 OT complex, in accordance with the standards laid by the perioperative recommendation issued during this pandemic. Along with providing the best clinical care for the COVID-19 pregnant patient, the exposure of SARS COV-2 to HCWs and the new-born were reduced by taking necessary IPC measures.<sup>4</sup>

Therefore, we used Level 3 PPE in OT, and shifted the new born to the separate room immediately as a part of our effective IPC measures. Level 3 PPE included splash resistant whole-body suit, face shield, N-95 mask, cap, goggles, shoe covers and 2 pairs of gloves. However, the patient was wearing surgical triple layer mask during transport as an IPC measure according to our hospital policy.<sup>5</sup>

Pregnant women with positive COVID-19 tests were managed based on the severity of illness. COVID-19 infection by itself was not an absolute indication to perform CS. Patients could be delivered according to individual obstetric indications. Patients

should be tested for COVID-19 if they become symptomatic. Evaluation of the maternal and foetal status were performed in order to balance the risks and benefits of delaying the delivery until the result of the test comes back. The clinical manifestation of COVID-19 and gestational age were the prime factors in determining the appropriate time for delivery.<sup>6</sup>

We preferred spinal anesthesia instead of general and epidural anesthesia. Regional anesthesia should be preferred over general anesthesia to prevent undue exposure of health care workers to aerosol generating procedure. It had reduced rates of respiratory depression. There was no vertical transmission seen in our study.

## Conclusion

Precautionary measures and strategies were of utmost importance and should be opted so as to lower virus contagion risk. Spinal anesthesia was preferred over GA

*Acknowledgement:* Nil

*Conflict of Interest:* Nil

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## Anaesthetic Management of Patient with Hypertrophy Obstructive Cardiomyopathy Posted for Elective Caesarean

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Dynamic valvular insufficiency and LVOT blockage are also possible outcomes of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HOCM). Furthermore, attempting to replace an inadequate mitral valve surgically can result in iatrogenic LVOT blockage.

In the general population, it affects one out of every 500 adults, with a male to female ratio of 2:1. Among the general population, the prevalence is around 0.2 percent, and the incidence in pregnant women is around 0.1-0.5 percent.

**Case Report:** 21 year old female patient presented with 9 months of amenorrhea posted for elective lower segment caesarean section. Her previous documents revealed that she was a diagnosed case of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy during her last pregnancy 1 year ago. History of previous surgery that is induced abortion at two and half months of gestation age a year back operated under spinal anaesthesia. ECG showed ST elevation present in V2, V3, V4, V5 leads and features of left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH), Her echocardiography report revealed features of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy with severe LVOT obstruction. Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) was 20-25%.

**Conclusion:** HOCM is normally well tolerated during pregnancy, although those who have had previous symptoms or arrhythmias may experience an exacerbation of symptoms. The majority of these people, on the other hand, can be effectively controlled medically. This case report showed that patients with HOCM can be safely managed under general anaesthesia with muscle relaxants and inhalational volatile anaesthetics, as well as an erector spinae block for analgesia.

**Keywords:** Erector spinae block, Esmolol, HOCM, Heart disease, Inhalational anaesthetics, Pregnancy.

**Key Messages:** Pregnant Patients coming for caesarean section having cardiomyopathy may go unnoticed prior to anaesthetizing for surgery. During the operative and post-operative period, they may present with unexplained hypotension and hemodynamic collapse which may require acute management with Vasopressors. We are presenting a case report of HOCM and its successful management.

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## Introduction

Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HOCM) can be a familial disease transmitted with autosomal dominant inheritance. Mutation in genes that code for cardiac sarcomere proteins can cause hypertrophy of segments of the ventricle. Septal involvement may be common, Incidence is 1 in every 500 adults, and in pregnant females is approximately 0.1-0.5%.<sup>1</sup>

It can include massive hypertrophy primarily involving the ventricular septum. Majority of the patients may be asymptomatic throughout life, some may present with severe limiting symptoms of dyspnoea, angina, syncope and a few may even die suddenly because of ventricular arrhythmias.

## Case Report

A 21 year old female patient, weighing 40 kg presented with 9 months of amenorrhoea posted for elective lower segment caesarean section. Her previous documents revealed that she was having hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy during her last pregnancy 1 year ago. History of previous

surgery that is induced abortion at two and half months of gestation age a year back operated under spinal anaesthesia. Presently asymptomatic, was on tablet Metoprolol 25 mg.

Examination revealed pallor, pulse rate of 92/min and blood pressure of 96/60 mm Hg, respiratory rate of 18cpm and was afebrile. Systemic examination of cardiovascular S1 S2 heard, murmur heard over all the chest fields, respiratory, central nervous system was normal with per abdomen examination of gravid uterus. On airway examination include class 3 of Mallampati.

Laboratory investigations were complete blood count Hemoglobin: 11 g%, RBC: 4.54 million/mm<sup>3</sup>, PCV: 34.40% , WBC: 9.99 T/cmm, Platelet count : 323 T/mm<sup>3</sup>, BT- 2 minute oo sec. CT-5 minute 50 sec, INR-1.24, PT: 15.4, APTT-32, ECG showed ST elevation present in V2, V3, V4 , V5 leads and features of left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) (Fig. 1), Her echocardiography report revealed features of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy with severe LVOT obstruction. Ejection fraction (LVEF) was 20-25%.

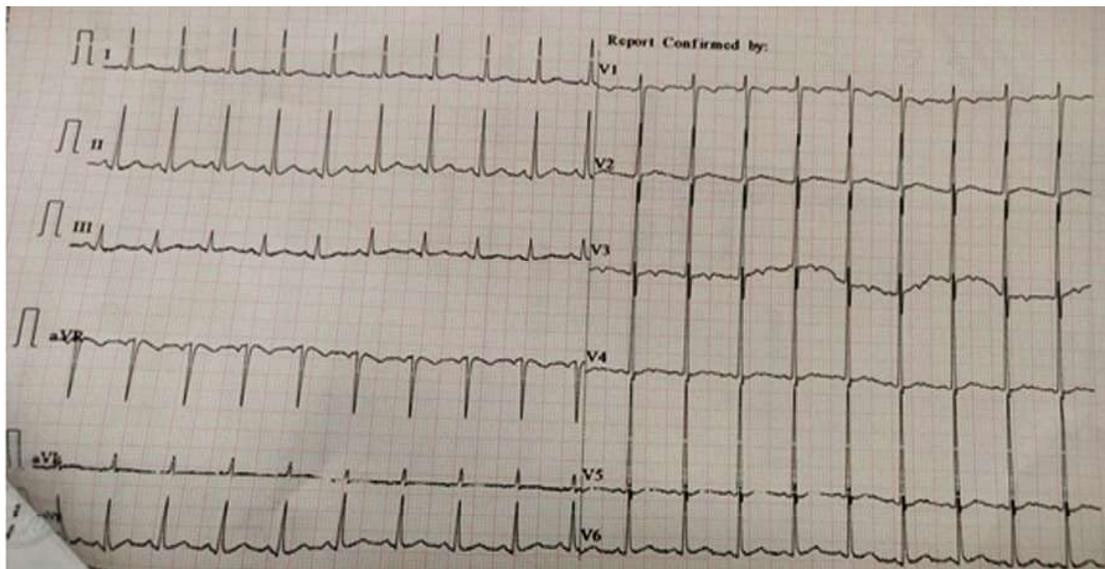


Fig. 1: ECG shows ST elevation present in V2, V3, V4, V5 leads and features of left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH)

## Anesthetic Management

General anaesthesia and Erector spinae block was planned for the surgery. 18G IVC secured in right hand. Monitoring includes pulse oximetry, ECG, invasive blood pressure, end-tidal carbondioxide. Patient was Pre medicated with IV, Inj. Midazolam 2 mg, IV Esmolol 20mg, IV Loxicard 60mg and Inj. Fentanyl 180 mcg IV. Preoxygenation done with 100% oxygen for 3 min. Induced with Inj. Thiopentone

125mg IV. After elimination of reflexes and reaching enough depth of anaesthesia appropriate endotracheal tube of size 6.5mm ID was inserted and fixed at 20cm, cuff inflated with air, bilateral air entry confirmed and good lung ventilation was confirmed by chest rise and ET<sub>CO</sub>2, and tube was fixed in place. Anaesthesia was maintained with 50% nitrous oxide in oxygen, with intermittent positive pressure ventilation. Muscle relaxant-IV Atracurium 15 mg given. Analgesia IV Paracetamol

1g given and erector spinae block given. Procedure lasted for 40 minutes, reversal IV Neostigmine 2.5mg plus IV Glycopyrrolate 0.4mg given. Patient extubated after thorough oral suctioning, vitals stable, shifted to ICU for observation.

## Discussion

The pathophysiology of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy includes "dynamic" LVOT blockage, which varies depending on the amount of blood in the ventricle just before ventricular systole.<sup>1</sup> Mitral regurgitation, diastolic dysfunction, and dysrhythmias are induced by dynamic blockage caused by systolic anterior motion of the anterior mitral valve leaflet.<sup>1</sup> The increased volume over load of pregnancy induces enlargement of the ventricle, which might theoretically lessen LVOT blockage; nevertheless, the increased cardiac output counteracts this effect, and the LVOT gradient increases as the pregnancy progresses.<sup>1</sup> The risk of atrial fibrillation increases with the same volume loading because the left atrium becomes distended. Volume changes and an elevated heart rate are not well tolerated in the context of diastolic illness, increasing dyspnoea symptoms and reducing the threshold for developing left heart failure. Due to a decrease in systemic vascular resistance and the potential of decreased venous return due to compression, pregnancy worsens the illness even more. Women with HOCM, on the other hand, usually tolerate pregnancy well. Women who are unwell prior to pregnancy and who have substantial LVOT blockage are at a higher risk. Anxiety, stress, and labor pain all raise the heart rate and contractility.<sup>1</sup>

We planned to give general anaesthesia to our patient. She was on tab. Metoprolol. Metoprolol lowers heart rate, improving ventricular filling, and lowering myocardial oxygen demand; however, beta blockers can cause fetal acidosis.<sup>1</sup> It also attenuates the intubation's hemodynamic response. Fentanyl was given because they reduce sympathetic activity, also providing analgesia. It is okay to use intravenous induction drugs such as thiopental to induce anaesthesia, although a fast drop in systemic vascular resistance should be avoided.<sup>1</sup>

Isoflurane, for maintenance, was used in our case as it is cardio stable.<sup>1</sup> We chose atracurium because it is cardio stable. Beta agonistic drugs including dopamine, ephedrine, and dobutamine should be avoided since they enhance myocardial contractility and heart rate, which can lead to LVOT blockage.<sup>1</sup>

Because hypotension and tachycardia are known

side effects of oxytocin, it is safest to administer it slowly and continuously.<sup>1</sup> Pulmonary edema has been found in patients following delivery, necessitating careful fluid management.<sup>1</sup> Severe hypertrophic cardiomyopathy can be followed using transthoracic echocardiography to guide fluid and vasopressor management during an elective caesarean section.<sup>1</sup>

In one case report, parturient was taken for emergency caesarean section, epidural anaesthesia was chosen. Epidural anaesthesia is safe for such patients, provided adequate volume expansion is done. Epidural anaesthesia is tolerated well without any complications even in pregnant females with HOCM having significant LVOT gradient. They chose 0.75% Ropivacaine over 0.5% Bupivacaine due to its superior sensory blockade, better cardiovascular profile as compared to Bupivacaine.<sup>2</sup>

Vaginal delivery is the most common method, with caesarean delivery reserved for obstetric reasons. In low risk, asymptomatic HCM patients, epidural anaesthesia is rarely required. Due to the risk of vasodilation and hypotension, epidural and spinal anaesthesia should be used with caution in women with significant LVOT blockage, and single-shot spinal anaesthetic should be avoided.<sup>3</sup>

Few elements, such as sympathetic stimulation from laryngoscopy and intubation, incision, surgical stress, and blood loss, are unavoidable during anaesthesia and surgery. Inadequate monitoring can exacerbate the blockage of the dynamic outflow tract. As a result, the goal of treatment in these patients is to reduce LVOT blockage. Due to arrhythmia, dynamic LVOT blockage, and diastolic dysfunction, these patients may worsen perioperatively. As a result, preventive measures include aggressive sinus rhythm maintenance with defibrillation or pharmacological therapy, prevention or treatment of LVOT obstruction by maintaining preload and afterload with phenylephrine, and beta blocker or verapamil administration, as well as suppression of sympathetic stimulation.<sup>4</sup>

## Conclusion

HOCM is normally well tolerated during pregnancy, although those who have had previous symptoms or arrhythmias may experience an exacerbation of symptoms. The majority of these people, on the other hand, can be effectively controlled medically. This case report showed that patients with HOCM can be safely managed under general anaesthesia with muscle relaxants and inhalational volatile

anaesthetics, as well as an erector spinae block for analgesia.

*Conflict of Interest:* Nil

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## Erector Spinae Block for thoracic Trauma

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Anesthesiologists face a difficult task in managing pain in trauma patients with acute rib and spine fractures, and attaining appropriate analgesia is critical in minimizing pulmonary consequences. Erector spinae plane (ESP) blocks are a type of localized anaesthetic that can be used to treat pain.

**Case Report:** After falling off his bike, a 42-year-old man suffered several rib and spine fractures. His injuries included fractures of the D4, D5, D8, D11, and D12 vertebral bodies, as well as fractures of the pedicle and spinous process of the D7 and D9 vertebrae, as well as comminuted fractures of the D7 and D10 vertebral bodies.

The decision to proceed with bilateral ESP block was made. A right-sided ESP block was conducted.

On presentation, the patient was in excruciating pain due to multiple rib and spine fractures, and was experiencing pain-related decreased respiratory effort. After receiving an ESP block, the patient's pain gradually subsided, and his respiratory effort improved, and he was managed conservatively in the hospital until he was taken for surgical intervention.

**Conclusion:** A novel myofascial plane block for thoracic analgesia is the ultrasound-guided erector spinae plane block (ESP). It allows patients to cough and breathe deeply while also reducing the length of time they are on mechanical ventilation.

**Keywords:** Erector Spinae block; Thoracic trauma.

**Key Messages:** Provide appropriate messages of about 35-50 words to be printed in centre box.

A 42 year old male patient sustained multiple rib and spine fractures. Pain management in such patients is a challenge for the anesthesiologist. ESP block is a novel myofascial plane block for thoracic analgesia and provides an alternative regional anesthetic technique for pain management. Ultrasound guided bilateral ESP block was given after which patient was pain free and successful management of the case is reported.

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## Introduction

Anesthesiologists face a difficult task in managing pain in trauma patients with acute rib and spine fractures, and attaining appropriate analgesia is critical in minimizing pulmonary consequences. Erector spinae plane (ESP) blocks are a type of localized anaesthetic that can be used to treat pain. In regional anaesthesia, the ESP block is a basic fascial plane block with a growing application. Although early investigations of the ESP block showed that local anaesthetic diffused over the thoracolumbar fascia and into the paravertebral region, providing analgesia to both the dorsal and ventral rami of the spinal roots, more research is needed. The ESP block is expected to provide excellent analgesia for individuals with acute traumatic spine fractures or patients undergoing surgical spinal instrumentation by blocking the dorsal rami. A case of effective analgesia with bilateral ESP block for a patient with acute traumatic rib fracture and T4 vertebral body rupture fracture is described in this study.

## Case Report

After falling off his bike, a 42 year old man suffered several rib and spine fractures. His injuries included fractures of the D4, D5, D8, D11, and D12 vertebral bodies, as well as fractures of the pedicle and spinous process of the D7 and D9 vertebrae, as well as comminuted fractures of the D7 and D10 vertebral bodies (Fig. 1), which resulted in spinal canal narrowing, cord compression, and spinal cord oedema. The patient described extreme pain in his thorax and back due to the severity of his injuries.



Fig. 1: It shows fractures in multiple levels.

Noninvasive blood pressure, heart rate, pulse oximetry (SpO<sub>2</sub>), and electrocardiogram (ECG)

monitoring become routine. In light of respiratory distress, the patient was placed on HFNC (high flow nasal cannula) with a fio<sub>2</sub> of 60% and a flow rate of 40 litres. His SpO<sub>2</sub> was 80 percent on face mask 5 L/min, and ECG readings revealed normal sinus tachycardia. The chest pads were connected after two big intravenous accesses were inserted.

The patient was originally treated with a multimodal analgesic regimen that included planned acetaminophen (1000 mg four times a day), Diclofenac (75 mg twice a day), Tramadol (50 mg twice a day), and a Buprenorphine transdermal patch. An epidural was not recommended due to his severe spine fractures. Pain, on the other hand, remained uncontrollably high. Due to splinting from pain, the patient required a high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) and intermittent continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) to improve breathing function.

On post injury day 2, the surgical team contemplated placing an epidural, but it was deemed hazardous due to the significant risk of surgical site bleeding and the potential for epidural hematoma formation. As a result, the decision to proceed with bilateral ESP block was made. A right sided ESP block was conducted under ultrasound guidance with a high frequency linear ultrasound probe after informed permission. With the transducer positioned in a parasagittal orientation roughly 3 cm off midline, the right T4 transverse process was found. Using an in-plane needling method, a 17 gauge Tuohy needle was advanced in a cephalad to caudad direction to a point exactly posterior to the T4 transverse process and anterior to the erector spinae muscle. The ESP was discovered.

On presentation, the patient was in excruciating pain due to multiple rib and spine fractures, and was experiencing pain related decreased respiratory effort. After receiving an ESP block, the patient's pain gradually subsided, and his respiratory effort improved, and he was managed conservatively in the hospital until he was taken for surgical intervention (spinal fusion and implant fixation).

## Discussion

The block's use has expanded to cover the treatment of a variety of acute and chronic pain conditions in the thorax and abdomen.<sup>1-4</sup> The ESP block has previously been documented in the acute trauma patient with spine fractures as an alternative to neuraxial procedures.<sup>2,7</sup> However, the ESP block has not been described in the acute trauma patient with spine fractures as an alternative to neuraxial

techniques.

The analgesic advantage for patients having spine surgery or with acute traumatic spine fractures can be explained by the projected cephalad and caudad spread along the thoracolumbar fascia, which encompasses the dorsal rami of the spinal nerves. The injectate distribution into the intercostal gaps, where local anaesthetic can act on the ventral rami, appears to provide an additional mechanism of action for analgesia of the anterolateral thoracic and abdominal wall.<sup>6</sup> There is one case series that illustrates the successful use of ESP blocks in patients undergoing spine surgery, however this was in the absence of further trauma-related injuries, and the ESP blocks were placed at low thoracic levels near the surgical site.<sup>5</sup>

The ESP block, like other fascial plane blocks, is technically simple to perform and is thought to have a lower risk of consequences such as nerve damage, pneumothorax, and hematoma formation.<sup>2,3</sup> The ESP block also allows for ongoing neurologic testing in trauma patients with intracranial disease or possible spinal cord injury, which can be muddled when neuraxial procedures are performed.

Furthermore, when compared to neuraxial procedures, there are less contraindications to installation, making ESP blocks a viable alternative to neuraxial or even paravertebral approaches. Expanding the use of the ESP block for patients having spine surgery or with acute traumatic spine fractures could provide an analgesic option for people who were previously unsuitable for the procedure. This opens up the possibility of a new line of investigation and research.

## Conclusion

Rib and spine fractures are typical injuries in acute chest trauma, causing intense thoracic pain and limiting patients' capacity to cough and breathe

deeply, leading to atelectasis and pneumonia. Analgesics and localised anaesthesia have been described as therapies for pain control in rib and spine fractures. A novel myofascial plane block for thoracic analgesia is the ultrasound guided erector spinae plane block (ESP). It allows patients to cough and breathe deeply while also reducing the length of time they are on mechanical ventilation.

**Conflict of Interest:** Nil

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## Pregnancy and Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** ALPA is an autoimmune hypercoagulable state caused by antiphospholipid antibodies. It is characterized by thrombotic episodes in arteries, veins and pregnancy related complications like still birth, preterm delivery, miscarriage and severe preeclampsia. We report a case of APLA syndrome due to its rarity.

**Case Report:** A 28 year old woman with a history of two previous abortions and positive serology for APLAs with 9 months gestation came to our hospital for safe confinement. She was diagnosed as primary APLA syndrome in view of bad obstetric history and positive lupus anticoagulant. She is a known hypothyroidism.

She was on Injection Enoxaparin 0.6 ml OD for 1 year which was changed to unfractionated heparin 14000 units OD subcutaneously after admitting to our hospital. In view of bad obstetric history, an elective caesarean section was planned. Unfractionated heparin was stopped 24 hours before surgery. Preoperative investigations revealed a normal APTT, PT, INR.

Spinal anesthesia given in L3-L4 inter-spinal space with 25G needle after preloading with 500 ml crystalloids and a sensory block up to T6 was attained. She delivered a single live male child with APGAR score 9. Injection Oxytocin 15 units was given intraoperatively. The further perioperative course was uneventful. She was restarted on Injection Enoxaparin 0.6ml OD for 6 weeks.

**Conclusion:** A successful outcome in a patient with APLA syndrome requires a multidisciplinary approach to prevent both thrombotic and hemorrhagic complications. However, routine screening of pregnant women is not necessary because of its low incidence.

**Keywords:** Pregnancy; APLA.

**Key Messages:** Provide appropriate messages of about 35-50 words to be printed in centre box.

ALPA is an autoimmune disorder with symptoms ranging from recurrent abortions, thromboembolic events, thrombocytopenia. Antithrombotic therapy is a mainstay of treatment given in these patients as the risk of recurrent thromboembolism is high. Intraoperative thromboembolic events in such patients is a challenge for the anaesthesiologist.

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## Introduction

ALPA is an autoimmune hypercoagulable state caused by antiphospholipid antibodies. It is characterized by thrombotic episodes in arteries, veins and pregnancy related complications like still birth, preterm delivery, miscarriage and severe preeclampsia. We report a case of APLA syndrome due to its rarity.

## Case Report

A 28 year old woman with a history of two previous abortions and positive serology for APLAs with 9 months gestation came to our hospital for safe confinement. She was diagnosed as primary APLA syndrome in view of bad obstetric history and positive lupus anticoagulant. She had history of hypothyroidism with no history of other autoimmune disorders.

She was on Injection Enoxaparin 0.6 ml OD for 1 year which was changed to unfractionated heparin 14000 units OD subcutaneously after admitting to our hospital. In view of bad obstetric history, an elective caesarean section was planned. Unfractionated heparin was stopped 24 hours before surgery. Preoperative investigations revealed a normal APTT, PT, INR

Subarachnoid block was given in L3-L4 inter spinal space with 25G quincke spinal needle. Sensory blockade till T6 was achieved along with motor blockade. She delivered a single live male child with APGAR score 9. Intraoperatively Injection Ondansetron, Injection Oxytocin 15 units and 3 pints of crystalloids was given intravenously. The further perioperative course was uneventful. She was restarted on Injection Enoxaparin 0.6ml OD for 6 weeks.

## Discussion

The diagnosis of the antiphospholipid syndrome is based on the occurrence of clinical features and positive serology for APLAs. Antiphospholipid antibodies include anticardiolipin antibodies (aCL) and lupus anticoagulant antibodies (LA). The combination of either anticardiolipin or lupus anticoagulant antibodies with one and more of the characteristic clinical features like thrombosis or recurrent pregnancy loss is termed Antiphospholipid syndrome. Recurrent thromboembolic events, recurrent abortions, valvular lesions, thrombocytopenia and hemolytic anemia.<sup>1,2</sup> The incidence is more in woman's than

males (female: male 4.5:1). The prevalence of APLA in the general population is only 2% while it is 30% in women with systemic lupus or thrombosis. It can be primary in the absence of any underlying illness or secondary when associated with other auto-immune disorders.<sup>2</sup> Despite their name, lupus anticoagulant antibodies are associated with thromboembolic events rather than clinical bleeding episodes. Pathogenesis of this syndrome is poorly understood, many mechanisms have been described, one being binding of APLAs to endothelial cells, which stimulates an up regulation of the adhesion molecules and an increase leukocyte adhesion leading to a prothrombotic state.<sup>4,5</sup> Most recently a catastrophic antiphospholipid variant with a mortality rate of approximately 50% has been described.<sup>6</sup> The mechanism of fetal loss is placental thrombosis leading to placental failure. Platelets may be damaged directly by phospholipid antibody or indirectly by beta 2 glycoprotein 1 which causes platelet aggregation. The damaged platelets adhere to the exposed basement membrane of the endothelium and syncytiotrophoblast resulting in thrombus formation.

In patients with a history of miscarriage, future outcomes of the pregnancy are improved when a combination of aspirin and heparin are used.<sup>6,7</sup> This therapy is withheld at the time of surgery to decrease blood loss and started immediately after delivery and continued for 6 weeks postpartum.

Antiphospholipid antibody can be precipitated perioperatively (thrombotic storm) by surgical intervention, infection or a change in anticoagulation therapy.<sup>6</sup> Intraoperatively anti embolic stockings, intermittent venous compression devices and adequate hydration can decrease the incidence of such complications. The optimal analgesic administration is imperative to facilitate early mobilization, which in turn decreases the incidence of thrombotic events postoperatively. Vigilant monitoring for both bleeding and thromboembolic episodes is required during the perioperative period.

## Conclusion

A successful outcome in a patient with APLA syndrome requires a multidisciplinary approach to prevent both thrombotic and hemorrhagic complications. However, routine screening of pregnant women is not necessary because of its low incidence.

*Conflict of Interest:* Nil

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## A Case Report of Pseudocholinesterase Fergse Deficiency

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** The drug metabolising enzyme pseudocholinesterase (butyrylcholinesterase) is responsible for the breakdown of the muscle relaxant medicines mivacurium and succinylcholine. Following infusion of mivacurium and succinylcholine, a deficiency of any kind might produce protracted paralysis and apnoea.

**Case presentation:** It's a case study of a patient who developed long-term apnea after taking mivacurium.

**Conclusion:** Prolonged blocks may be encountered due to mivacurium use. The diagnosis of pseudocholinesterase enzyme deficiency can be given after a careful clinic supervision and peripheral nerve stimulator monitoring. A decrease in the activity of pseudocholinesterase enzyme and improvement in neuromuscular function will help verifying our diagnosis. Instead of pharmacological applications that may further complicate the situation, what should be done in such patients is to wait until the block-effect goes down by the help of sedation and mechanical ventilation.

**Keywords:** Metabolising; Patient; Prolonged blocks; Block-effect.

### Introduction

Pseudocholinesterase (PChE) is an enzyme with a complex molecular structure.<sup>1</sup> It is synthesized in the liver and immediately released into the plasma.<sup>2</sup> The plasma half-life has been estimated to be approximately 12 days.<sup>3</sup> Deficiency or reduced activity of this enzyme results in significant

prolongation of mivacurium or succinylcholine induced neuromuscular blockade.<sup>4</sup> In addition, PChE activity may be reduced by a number of disease states or by concomitant drug administration. Mivacurium, which is a nondepolarizing neuromuscular blocking drug administered in doses of 0.1 to 0.2 mg/kg, also produces rapid onset

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of neuromuscular blockade lasting 15 to 30 minutes.<sup>5</sup> The rapid ester hydrolysis of mivacurium by PChE results in the short duration of action of this drug, which is ideal for providing muscle relaxation for brief surgical procedures.<sup>6</sup> But, the duration of mivacurium in adults is inversely related to serum PChE activity.<sup>7</sup> In this case report, a patient who developed mivacurium apnea postoperatively due to congenital or acquired pseudocholinesterase enzyme deficiencies is discussed.

Pseudocholinesterase deficiency can be caused by mutations in the BCHE gene. This gene provides instructions for making the pseudocholinesterase enzyme, also known as butyrylcholinesterase, which is produced by the liver and circulates in the blood. The pseudocholinesterase enzyme is involved in the breakdown of choline ester drugs. It is likely that the enzyme has other functions in the body, but these functions are not well understood.

Studies suggest that the enzyme may be involved in the transmission of nerve signals.

Some BCHE gene mutations that cause pseudocholinesterase deficiency result in an abnormal pseudocholinesterase enzyme that does not function properly. Other mutations prevent the production of the pseudocholinesterase enzyme. A lack of functional pseudocholinesterase enzyme impairs the body's ability to break down choline ester drugs efficiently, leading to abnormally prolonged drug effects.

When due to genetic causes, this condition is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies of the gene in each cell have mutations. Most often, the parents of an individual with an autosomal recessive disorder have one copy of the altered gene in each cell and are called carriers. They can pass on the gene mutation to their children, but they do not usually experience signs and symptoms of the disorder. In some cases, carriers of BCHE gene mutations take longer than usual to clear choline ester drugs from the body, but not as long as those with two copies of the altered gene in each cell.

### Case presentation

A 31-year-old woman, weighing 78 kg, was scheduled for caesarean section under general anesthesia. She was not operated previously. Induction of anesthesia was achieved with 130 mg of propofol. Muscular relaxation was achieved before intubation with 12 mg of mivacurium. Isoflurane was used as the general anesthetic inhalation agent.

The operation lasted for 30 minutes and the section surgery was uneventful. After the surgery, the inhalation agent was discontinued and the patient received 100% oxygen. It was noted that emergence seemed to be prolonged after 10 minutes. All vital signs were stable, showing no signs of tachycardia or hypertension. Oxygen saturation remained 100%. After an additional 10 minutes, there was suspicion of a PChE deficiency. Peripheral nerve stimulator (PNS) produced zero twitches. Three milligrams of midazolam was administered intravenously for its sedation and amnestic effects. Later the patient was transferred to the post-anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) for observation and ventilator support. Sixty-two minutes later, spontaneous muscle twitching was noted. One hour and twenty-two minutes later from the initial use of mivacurium, the patient had regained sufficient motor function to meet extubation requirements. Blood samples were drawn and sent to confirm a PChE deficiency [Patient's PChE value (normal range) 1017 IU/L (2000 to 11000 IU/L)]. The patient was transferred to a hospital ward for the evening and discharged two days later. The PChE values of the patient who was called for a control after two months was considered between the normal ranges (3124 IU/L).

### Discussion

Mivacurium is a potent benzylisoquinoline, nondepolarizing neuromuscular blocking drug. A recommended intravenous dose of 0.15 to 0.2 mg/kg provides tracheal intubating conditions within 2 to 2.5 minutes, with a predicted duration of action of 15 to 25 minutes, making it an ideal drug for short procedures requiring tracheal intubation.<sup>8</sup> It is a structural relative of atracurium, but it does not undergo Hofmann elimination and is rapidly hydrolysed by PChE.

Its duration of action is affected by the activity of this enzyme. PChE is a tetrameric glycoprotein enzyme produced by the liver that hydrolyzes choline esters, such as those found in succinylcholine, mivacurium, procaine, chlorprocaine, tetracaine, cocaine and heroine.<sup>9</sup>

In patients with a normal genotype for PChE, mivacurium's duration of action is inversely related to PChE activity and duration of action is slightly prolonged if activity is low.<sup>10</sup>

Reduced PChE activity may occur as a result of inherited causes related to mutations at a single autosomal location on the long arm of chromosome 3.<sup>11</sup> When there is a deficiency of this enzyme due to the presence of one or more atypical alleles, the mivacurium is not properly metabolized

and thus, muscle paralysis can last for several hours. There are two forms of inherited atypical pseudocholinesterase deficiency. The heterozygous atypical form affects anywhere from 1 in 25, to 1 in 480 individuals (depending on the severity of the condition).<sup>9</sup>

Patients heterozygous for an abnormal enzyme may show up to 50% prolongation of block.<sup>12</sup> The homozygous atypical form affecting approximately 1 in 3200 to 5000 individuals.<sup>9</sup>

In patients homozygous for an abnormal enzyme duration may be significantly prolonged, and even a small dose, (eg.0.03 mg/kg) can result in complete paralysis for up to 128 minutes.<sup>13</sup>

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## Anesthetic Management of Dilated Cardiomyopathy for Cesarean Section

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is one of the most common types of non ischemic heart muscle disease among the adult population, and it is associated with a high perioperative mortality.

**Case Report:** A 33-year-old female, G2P1L1+1 at 37 weeks of gestation admitted electively for cesarean section who is a known case of DCM with an ejection fraction of 40%.

In the preoperative evaluation, patient has a history of shortness of breath on mild to moderate physical exercise, 12-lead electrocardiography (ECG) showed sinus rhythm with occasional premature ventricular complexes and other parameters are normal.

Echocardiogram (Echo) showed severely dilated left ventricle with moderately to severely reduced systolic function due to global hypokinesia and indeterminate filling pressures, and no thrombi were present. All monitoring parameters were connected and an awake arterial line was inserted first followed by epidural in the sitting position. Inj. bupivacaine 0.25% 20 mL + 40 µg fentanyl was given into the epidural space. The depth of the epidural space was 9.5 cm, while the depth of the catheter was 5.5 cm. The epidural was uneventful, and we changed the patient position into a supine position. Intravenous fluids were maintained at 60–80 mL/h. Intra operative vitals are stable and baby was extracted and blood loss around 700ml. Patient shifted to ICU for close monitoring.

**Conclusion:** Dilated cardiomyopathy is associated with high mortality and persistent decrease in quality of mother. Careful selection of drugs and best anesthetic techniques is important for good maternal and fetal outcome.

**Keywords:** Dilated cardiomyopathy; Caesarean section.

**Key Messages:** Dilated cardiomyopathy is challenging task for an anesthesiologist and most of the patients who have DCM will be left undiagnosed peripartum period especially in the developing countries like India. Most of the patients who undergo cesarean section will be on emergency basis rather than elective. So, Anesthesiologist won't be having enough time in evaluating patients pre operatively. Any pre operative suspicion of DCM and intraoperative suspicion of persistent hypotension and tachycardia should be evaluated intraoperatively by bedside echocardiography. This bedside USG cardiac assessment should be used as a diagnostic tool by an anaesthesiologist in operation theatre helps in reduce the ICU stay of the patient and good prognosis.

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## Introduction

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is one of the most common types of non ischemic heart muscle disease among the adult population, and it is associated with a high perioperative mortality.

Systolic function impairment and left ventricular or biventricular enlargements are the hallmark of DCM which have a significant impact on myocardial contractility.<sup>1,2</sup> Despite the high prevalence of DCM among adults, limited evidence has been published regarding the ideal anesthetic management in non cardiac surgery.<sup>2</sup> In this report, we describe successful management of a case of DCM that underwent cesarean section under neuraxial blockade (epidural anesthesia) with successful outcome.

## Case Report

A 33 year old female, G2P1L1 at 37 weeks gestation admitted electively for cesarean section. She is a newly diagnosed Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and completely asymptomatic.

In the preoperative evaluation, the patient was doing well, with no active complaint and good fetal movement with no history of vaginal leakage. She has a history of shortness of breath on moderate physical exercise, unable to climb a flight of stairs without becoming breathless. On examination, she was 165 cm tall and weighed 90.3 kg with body mass index of 33.2, her heart rate (HR) was 97/min and blood pressure (BP) was 125/71 mmHg, and her SpO<sub>2</sub> was 99% while breathing room air. There were no features suggestive of congestive heart failure. Routine laboratory investigations were within normal limits with a hemoglobin level of 10.3g/dL. Chest X-ray show cardiomegaly. 12-lead electrocardiography (ECG) showed sinus (Fig. 1) rhythm with occasional premature ventricular complexes, otherwise normal ECG. Cardiology opinion was taken regarding ECG changes and Cardiomegaly on Chest X ray.

Echocardiogram (Echo) showed Global hypokinesia. of LV(total anterior and lateral walls are hypokinetic), Dilated LV with moderate eccentric MR, mild TR, mild PAH, thin IAS septum, Mild LV systolic dysfunction with preserved ejection fraction of 40%.Patient was diagnosed as Peripartum cardiomyopathy and advised Inj. Lasix 120mg stat, Tab. Spironolactone 25mg OD. Cardiologist suggested for elective LSCS after symptomatic improvement in cardiac congestion and Inj. Lasix 40mg to be given 1hr prior to the surgical procedure and the same has been same followed.

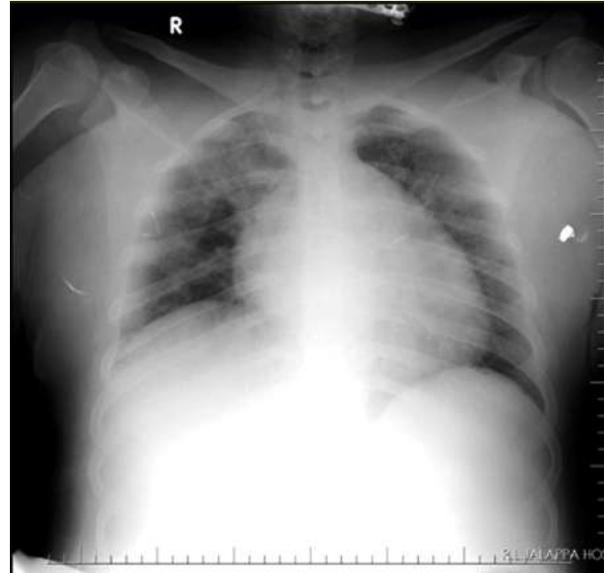


Fig. 1: X-ray showing Dilated Cardiomyopathy.

The last formal ultrasound (US) on 37 weeks 1 day showed an estimated fetal weight of 2.8 kg, cephalic with normal amniotic fluid, and normal Doppler. The epidural anesthesia technique was explained to the patient, and the consent was signed.

The plan was to admit her for cesarean section after cardiology clearance. The plan of anesthesia is to proceed with epidural anesthesia with a backup plan of general anesthesia.

Routine non invasive monitoring was established, including noninvasive blood pressure, hr, pulse oximetry (SpO<sub>2</sub>), and ECG. Her SpO<sub>2</sub> was 99% on face mask 5 L/min, and ECG results showed normal sinus rhythm. An awake arterial line was inserted first followed by epidural in the sitting position. Two large intravenous accesses were inserted. The crash cart was brought in the operative room, and inotropes and vasopressors instead of mephentermine were kept ready to go. The patient was very anxious; midazolam 1 mg was administered before epidural, and then 2mL of 2% lidocaine was used for local infiltration anesthesia at L3–4 space. The epidural space was located with an 18-G Tuohy needle at the first attempt. After confirming the space by loss of resistance, Test dose of 2%lidocaine with adrenaline 3ml given to confirm space followed by 0.5% Bupivacaine 6ml + 20mcg Fentanyl was given into the epidural space. The depth of the epidural space was 5cm, while epidural catheter was placed at 9cm. The epidural was uneventful, and we changed the patient position into a supine position.

Intravenous fluids were maintained at 60–80 mL/h. Intra operative BP was 110/70 mmHg. Successful neuraxial blockade level was achieved till T6 and surgeons were asked to proceed with LSCS and a baby girl was delivered. Uterotonic medications were administered, with estimated blood loss of around 700 mL. The surgery lasted for 45 min. The Apgar score for the newborn infant was 9 points. Surgical procedure was uneventful. The patient was admitted to the High dependency unit (HDU) for observation as she is in a high risk for having decompensated heart failure in post operative period. On cardiologist advice, post operatively Inj.Lasix 5mg/hr continuous infusion for 16hrs and later on switched to Inj. Lasix 40mg-20mg-20mg. She was stable in the HDU, and they transferred her back to the ward with a stable condition after 24 h. No perioperative or anesthetic complications occurred. The patient was discharged home 1 week later with cardiology reference.

## Discussion

DCM is a diagnosis of exclusion and our case fulfilled all the diagnostic criteria. Treatment of DCM is similar to other types of congestive heart failure. The mainstay of therapy is a combination of diuretics, sodium restriction, anticoagulation and beta blockers. The cardiology consult did not include thromboprophylaxis in the treatment of this patient.<sup>3</sup>

The ultimate goal of Peripartum cardiomyopathy is to avoid changes in hemodynamics. General anesthesia involves the use of cardio depressant drugs like thiopentone, narcotics and/or inhalational agents. The use of opioid based induction may necessitate post operative ventilation for both mother and new born. Performing a rapid sequence induction on a patient with compromised cardiac function can be extremely challenging. Thus, a carefully administered regional anesthetic is advantageous. In addition to avoiding the stress of laryngoscopy and intubation, the vasodilatation produced by regional anesthesia is beneficial with isolated left ventricular dysfunction. We chose epidural anesthesia as it permits gradual and controlled induction with minimal variation in hemodynamic parameters when accompanied by judicious administration of intravenous fluids and inotropes. 0.5% Bupivacaine was selected as it is long acting, gives surgical anesthesia of good quality with early recovery from motor blockade. Oxytocin after delivery was administered intravenously as

a slow infusion to prevent sudden vasodilatation causing hypotension and tachycardia.

Post operative period is important in PPCM as reabsorption of third space fluid after 48 hours of LSCS may increase preload causing congestive cardiac failure.<sup>6</sup> Epidural top up of 0.125% of Bupivacaine 8ml 8th hrly was continued for post operative analgesia; to avoid post operative pain associated hemodynamic variations. To conclude, in developing nations, where not all parturients undergo regular antenatal checkups, high degree of clinical suspicion is important for early diagnosis and anesthetic management of PPCM thereby increasing chances of successful patient outcome. Titrated epidural anesthesia with judicious fluid and inotropic support is a prudent choice in such cases.

## Conclusion

Dilated cardiomyopathy is associated with high morbidity and mortality and can lead to maternal and fetal loss and persistent decrease in quality of life in mother. Early diagnosis, prompt monitoring and post operative follow up remains main stay of treatment. Principles of management is to prevent sudden hemodynamic changes and conscious administration of drugs which alter the hemodynamics gives good maternal and fetal outcome.

*Conflict of Interest:* NIL

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