



A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF ISOFLURANE ALONE AND SEVOFLURANE WITH ISOFLURANE ALTERNATELY FOR PRODUCING CONTROLLED HYPOTENSION DURING COMBINED APPROACH TYMPANOPLASTY (CAT) IN ADULTS

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INTRODUCTION:

CAT is microscopic surgery requiring bloodless field which has been revolutionized with the introduction of hypotensive anaesthesia. Hypotensive anaesthesia is a double edged sword and a very precise control is required. Both isoflurane and sevoflurane are inhalational anaesthetic agents and used to induce controlled hypotension. Isoflurane having mild pungency, limits rate of induction. Sevoflurane, with low Blood:Gas partition coefficient provides smooth, rapid induction and recovery but is costlier. As a solution to this we tried to conduct a study to determine if isoflurane when given individually and with sevoflurane alternately offered any advantages in terms of intraoperative hemodynamic profile, surgical field, bleeding, recovery profile and post operative side effects if any.

METHOD:

After ethical committee approval, adult (20-50 years) ASA I/II patients, undergoing CAT with written informed consent were subjected for this randomized, prospective, double blind study. Patients with difficult airway were excluded.

The sample size was calculated to be 50 ($\alpha=0.05$ and $\beta=0.2$) to achieve 80% power to detect a 30% difference in mean arterial pressure between the two groups. They were randomly divided further into Group A and B (n=24; n=22 respectively).

In 4 patients other drugs had to be used to produce desired hypotension hence were excluded from the statistical analysis.

In the operation theatre, all patients were attached standard monitoring like ECG, NIBP, pulse oximeter, EtCO₂. Intravenous line with 18G cannula was secured.

Premedication was done with midazolam 0.03 mg/kg, ondansetron 4 mg, fentanyl 2µg/kg and simultaneously pre-oxygenation was done with flow rate of 8-10 litre of O₂/min. Induction was done with propofol 2mg/kg followed by vecuronium 0.1 mg/kg.

In Group A isoflurane was started at 1 MAC and in Group B sevoflurane was started at 1 MAC. After adequate relaxation, intubation was done using appropriate size endotracheal tube and maintained on O₂:Air in ratio of 34:66.

In Group B sevoflurane 1 MAC was replaced by isoflurane 1 MAC after 10 minutes and sevoflurane 1 MAC was started again 5 minutes post graft placement till the closure of first stitch at skin incision. In Group A isoflurane 1 MAC alone was continued till first stitch at skin incision.

At end of surgery residual paralysis was reversed with neostigmine and glycopyrrolate.

Induction profile via number of episodes of coughing/breath holding and hemodynamic variables (Systolic, Diastolic and Mean arterial blood pressure; Oxygen saturation and Heart rate) were observed. Surgical field and satisfaction were assessed by Likert

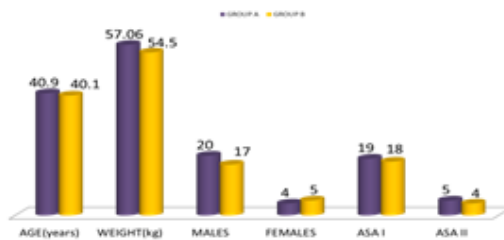
scale and Modified Aldrete scoring was seen 10 minutes post extubation.

The observations obtained in both the groups were recorded and tabulated. After the study, analysis of the data done by Chi-square test and t-test for parametric data and Mann-Whitney for non parametric data. A probability value (P value) of <0.05 was considered as statistically significant and <0.001 as highly significant.

RESULTS:

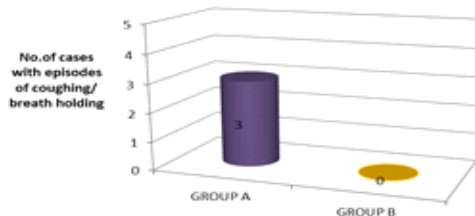
The groups were comparable (p > 0.05) in terms of demographic data, ASA grading and type of surgery.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



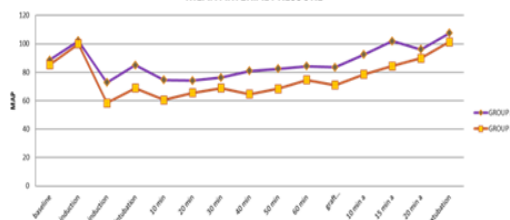
Although 3 cases in Group A had episodes of coughing during induction and none in Group B but it was found not significant (p value = 0.085). Sahu et al in their study concluded that sevoflurane was associated with less airway hyperactivity but in our study we found no such difference.

INDUCTION PROFILE

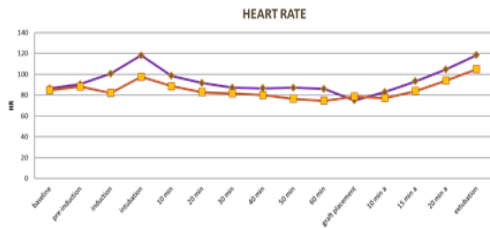


MAP revealed lower values in both the groups but the fall was highly significant at the time of intubation (p value <0.001) and significant at the time of induction and rest of intraoperative period till few minutes before extubation (p value <0.05) in group B.

MEAN ARTERIAL PRESSURE

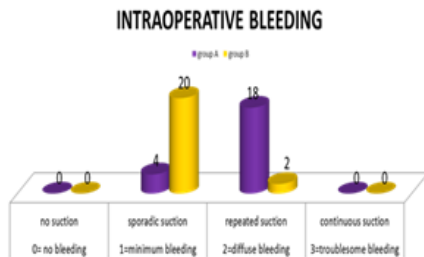


Heart rate increased significantly during induction and intubation in Group A while the response was adequately blunted in Group B but the difference in heart rate remained insignificant throughout rest of the intraoperative period.



In our study, effect on surgical field was assessed by intra-operative bleeding and surgeons satisfaction score.

Intra-operative bleeding was studied under 4 grades (Grade 0= no bleeding requiring no suction ; Grade 1= minimal bleeding requiring sporadic suction ; Grade 2= diffuse bleeding requiring repeated suction ; Grade 3= troublesome bleeding requiring continuous suction) In Group A, 75% of patients had Grade II bleeding and required repeated suctioning.(p value < 0.001) whereas in Group B, 90.9% of patients required only sporadic suctioning revealing that blood loss was significantly lower in these patients.(p value <0.001)



Surgeon's satisfaction was taken on likert scale as (Grade 1= not at all satisfied ; Grade 2= slightly satisfied ; Grade 3= moderately satisfied ; Grade 4= very satisfied ; Grade 5= extremely satisfied) . In 81% of cases surgeons were extremely satisfied in group B whereas in group A they were only moderately satisfied in 50% of cases.

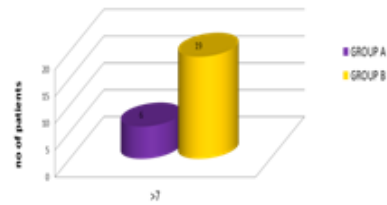


Modified Aldrete Score >7 was achieved by 79.2% patients in Group B while only 25% of the cases in Group A which was found highly significant(p value <0.001)

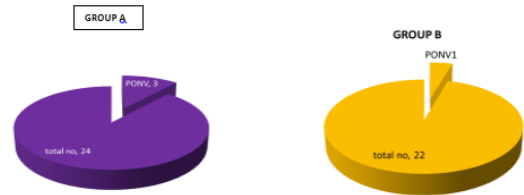
Chart 1. The 'modified' Aldrete Scale

RESPIRATION	2	1	0
	Able to take deep breath and cough	Dyspnea/Shallow Breathing	Apnea
O2 SATURATION	2	1	0
	Maintains > 92% on room air	Needs O2 inhalation to maintain O2 saturation > 90%	Saturation < 90% even with supplemental O2
CONSCIOUSNESS	2	1	0
	Fully awake	Arousable on calling	Not responding
CIRCULATION	2	1	0
	BP ≥ 20mmHg pre op	BP ≥ 20-50mmHg pre op	BP ≥ 50mmHg pre op
ACTIVITY	2	1	0
	Able to move 4 extremities voluntarily or on command	Able to move 2 extremities voluntarily or on command	Able to move 0 extremities voluntarily or on command

MODIFIED ALDRETE SCORE



No intra-operative complications were seen in any of the cases however 3 cases in Group A and 1 in Group B had incidence of post-operative nausea was found not significant statistically.



DISCUSSION:

During middle ear surgery, controlled hypotension is required for a clearer operative field, as oozing blood obscures vision during ear microsurgery and can make correct graft placement difficult during tympanoplasty. Primary methods used are mild head elevation of 15° and infiltration of epinephrine. Pharmacological agents can be used alone or adjunctively to limit dosage requirements and hence the adverse effects of the other agents.

Both isoflurane and sevoflurane produce hypotension via peripheral vasodilation. But the target MAP [<70 mm hg or 30% reduction in baseline whichever is less] was achieved earlier with sevoflurane group which can be explained by its rapid solubility and was maintained with less variation intraoperatively. As sympathetic stimulation at the time of intubation was more with isoflurane which hampered the achievement of target MAP and inadequate blunting of intubation response resulting in significant tachycardia during intubation. Dal D et al in their study found comparable hemodynamics with isoflurane and sevoflurane.

As no effective method is available to accurately calculate intraoperative blood loss, so it wasn't measured or compared statistically in this study. But there was subjective improvement in operating conditions in Group B with which surgeons were more satisfied.

Emergence was better in patients with sevoflurane which can be explained by its low B:G partition coefficient leading to its early wash off and recovery. Sahu et al in their study found that sevoflurane as compared to isoflurane had advantages of quicker emergence, early discharge from PACU and less airway hyperactivity.

No significant perioperative complications were seen in our study. Frink et al also in their clinical comparison of sevoflurane and isoflurane in healthy patients reported that the incidence of postoperative nausea did not differ between the sevoflurane and isoflurane groups.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: None

CONCLUSION:

So it can be concluded, isoflurane alone can be used to achieve desired hypotension but sevoflurane with isoflurane in alternate manner provides better intraoperative hemodynamics, minimal bleeding with clearer surgical field and improved recovery profile.

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