



Comparison of Intravenous Bolus Ephedrine Phenylephrine and Mephentermine for Maintenance of Arterial Pressure During Spinal Anaesthesia in Caesarean Section

KEYWORDS

phenylephrine, ephedrine, mephentermine, blood pressure, heart rate,

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ABSTRACT Context: Comparison of intravenous bolus ephedrine phenylephrine and mephentermine for maintenance of arterial pressure during spinal anaesthesia in caesarean section.

AIM: To Comparison of intravenous bolus ephedrine phenylephrine and mephentermine for maintenance of arterial pressure during spinal anaesthesia in caesarean section.

Settings and Design: The present Prospective Randomized study was carried out in a tertiary care teaching hospital. A total of 60 American society of Anaesthesiologists physical status I and II patients aged about 20 to 30 Years pregnant women posted for elective caesarean and emergency caesarean section under spinal anaesthesia were enrolled in the study. Patients were randomly divided into three groups. Group P (phenylephrine) Group E (ephedrine) Group M (mephentermine) with 20 patients in each group.

Materials and Methods: group P received 100 ug I v bolus Group E received ephedrine 6 mg I v bolus and group M 6mg in 1ml I v bolus.

Statistical Analysis Used: Comparability of groups are analyzed with analysis variance test to analyzed parametric data 'P' value < 0.05 was considered significant.

Results: The systolic and diastolic arterial pressure were decreased statistically significant ($P < 0.001$) at the onset of Hypotension and increases after bolus dose of drug, in all the three groups heart rate variable in different groups in pre and post surgery drug values.

Conclusion: we have found that the phenylephrine, ephedrine and mephentermine are effective in I v bolus form in maintenance of arterial pressure within 20% limit of base line though phenylephrine has quicker peak effect in comparison to ephedrine and mephentermine and it causes reduction in heart rate which may be advantageous in cardiac patients and patients in whom tachycardia is undesirable.

INTRODUCTION

The Regional anaesthetic techniques used for caesarean section have gained increasing popularity during the past few decades. The main impetus has come from the women themselves. Most mothers wish to be awake during the delivery. Furthermore the reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality in the recent years has been attributed to the increased use of regional anesthesia. The NSCSA (National Sentinel Caesarean Section Audit) 2001 reported that 77% of emergency and 91% of elective caesarean sections are being performed using regional anaesthesia.

Although regional anaesthesia offers several definite advantages, it has its potential complications, which may cause maternal morbidity and mortality. Maternal hypotension remains one of the most common complications during the application of regional techniques.

Anaesthesia to a parturient is not only unique but requires highest degree of care because the Anaesthesiologist has to look after two individuals, the mother and foetus.

In elective caesarean section under regional anaesthesia hypotension has been reported in as many as 85% of patients.

Hypotension may be detrimental to the mother and in foetus it results in placental hypoperfusion. Careful positioning and volume preloading with crystalloids or colloids have been used to prevent it, but these are not complete measures

and Vasopressor is required to correct hypotension quickly. We have studied intravenous boluses of Phenylephrine, Ephedrine and Mephentermine for maintenance of arterial pressure during spinal anaesthesia in caesarean section.

METHODOLOGY

Approval from the ethical committee of the College and informed consent from each patient were taken. We studied 60 patients, singleton full term pregnant patients undergoing elective as well as emergency Caesarean sections, who developed hypotension after subarachnoid block (SAB). They were of 20-30 yrs of age with ASA Group I and II and divided into 3 groups of 20 each as per study drugs:

Group P: Phenylephrine 100ug.

Group E: Ephedrine 6mg and

Group M: Mephentermine 6mg in 1 ml as bolus IV.

Each patient received intramuscular Inj. atropine 0.6, mg, and 30-45min before anaesthesia. Ryles tube suction was done, who were not nil oral for 4 hrs, Ringer's lactate solution 10ml/kg-1 was infused rapidly as preload. The patients were connected to noninvasive sphygmomanometer and ECG monitor with modified chest leads. With careful antiseptic preparation and patients in the lateral position, 1.2ml of Lignocaine 5% with two drops of adrenaline was administered in subarachnoid space through a 23 gauge Quincke needle at either L2-3 or L3-4 space. The patient

was turned to supine position and after 5 min wedge was placed under the right flank. Oxygen was administered at a rate of 4L min⁻¹ by a face mask to all the patients until the umbilical cord was clamped. And Inj. Oxytocin 20U in 5% dextrose was given after clamping the cord.

After preloading, pulse rate, systolic and diastolic arterial pressures were recorded thrice then the middle values were taken as base line values. Then same parameters were recorded after subarachnoid block, then at every 2 min for 20 min and thereafter every 10 min until the end of the surgery. Whenever hypotension (fall in systolic pressure >20% from the baseline value or a value less than 90mmHg) occurred the study drug was given as IV bolus. The number of boluses and time taken to develop hypotension were noted. The bradycardia i.e. a pulse rate of 60min⁻¹ or less was treated with atropine 0.3mg I.V.

The highest level of sensory block was assessed by pin-prick method 5min after the sub arachnoid block. The induction delivery and incision delivery interval were recorded. Paediatrician assessed Apgar score of every neonate at 1 and 5min after delivery.

Comparability of groups were analysed with Analysis variance (ANOVA) test. Student's two-tailed 't' test applied to analyse parametric data. P value < 0.05 was considered significant.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

The groups were comparable in physical characteristic. All the three groups were similar in sensory block level, time to develop hypotension and mean time to delivery and uterine incision to delivery interval.

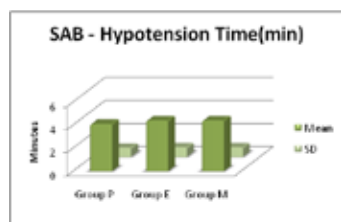
Table — 3: Patients characteristic and relevant data

| | Group P (Phenylephrine) 23.15± 2.24 | Group E (Ephedrine) 22.85±2.39 | Group M (Mephentermine) 23.9± 2.56 |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Maternal age(Mean± SD) years | 23.15 ± 2.24 | 22.85 ± 2.39 | 23.9 ± 2.56 |
| Maternal weight(Mean ± SD) kgs | 63.5±3.00 | 63.2 ± 2.94 | 64 ± 3.09 |
| Maternal Height(Mean ± SD) cms | 154.3± 4.37 | 154.9 ± 5.27 | 156.7 ± 5.09 |
| Highest level of sensory block-ade (Median) | T6 | T6 | T6 |
| SAB-Hypotension time (mean ± SD) min | 4.1 ± 0.76 | 4.4 ± 0.8 | 4.4 ± 0.8 |
| SAB - Del interval(Mean ± SD) min | 9.05 ± 0.67 | 8.95 ± 0.58 | 9.4 ± 0.66 |
| U1 – Del interval(Mean ± SD) min | 1.1 ± 0.3 | 1.15 ± 0.35 | 1.05 ± 0.21 |
| Foetal Heart rate(Mean ± SD) per minute | 136.2 ± 2.18 | 134.9 ± 0.99 | 135.3 ± 1.70810 |
| APGAR Score of baby(median) | | | |
| At 1 minute | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| At 5 minutes | 10 | 10 | 10 |

SAB :- Sub Arachnoid Block



Graph 1
SAB :- Sub Arachnoid Block



Graph 2

The systolic and diastolic arterial pressures were decreased statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) at the onset of hypotension and increased after bolus dose of drug, in all the three groups. On inter group comparison rise of systolic blood pressures at 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 minutes post study drugs were less in Ephedrine and Mephentermine groups as compared to phenylephrine group ($p < 0.001$). And at 4 min post study drug systolic blood pressure was significantly less in Ephedrine group as compared to Mephentermine group. At the end of surgery all the three groups recorded almost equal systolic pressures. Diastolic blood pressures at 2, 4, 6 and 8 minutes were significantly less in ephedrine and mephentermine groups than the phenylephrine group ($p < 0.001$). Diastolic blood pressures were slightly more with ephedrine group compared to mephentermine group at 6 and 8 minutes after drug given.

Table-4 : Changes in Systolic blood pressure (Mean ++SD) mm of Hg

| Intervals | Systolic Blood pressure (mm Hg) | | | Inter group comparison | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| | Group P | Group E | Group M | P-E | P-M | E-M |
| HP(VP given) | 83.8 \pm 7.56 | 83.4 \pm 8.72 | 83.2 \pm 7.35 | - | - | - |
| 2 min after V P | 108.9 \pm 8.37 | 91.4 \pm 6.29 | 92.4 \pm 3.49 | ++ | ++ | - |
| 4 min after VP | 113.1* \pm 6.24 | 99.6* \pm 3.72 | 103.1* \pm 5.45 | + | ++ | + |
| 6 min after VP | 115.1* \pm 4.07 | 106.8* \pm 3.37 | 106 \pm 4.81 | + | ++ | - |
| 8 min after VP | 116.5* \pm 4.18 | 110.5* \pm 3.57 | 107.8* \pm 7.03 | ++ | ++ | - |
| 10 min after VP | 116.7* \pm 4.30 | 111* \pm 7.78 | 111 \pm 4.17 | ++ | ++ | - |
| 14 min after VP | 114* \pm 9.93 | 112.6* \pm 7.35 | 110.8* \pm 7.67 | - | - | - |
| At 30 min of surgery | 114.3* \pm 7.72 | 108.1* \pm 12.96 | 105.6 \pm 14.73 | - | - | - |
| At the end of the surgery | 117.1* \pm 3.43 | 117.4* \pm 3.85 | 117.4* \pm 3.8 | - | - | - |

HP-Hypotension VP-Vasopressor agents

With in the groups values were compare between HP values and post VP With in the groups :Between the groups

++ P< 0.001 * P <0.05 + P<0.05 0 P > 0.05 - P>0.05

Table-5 : Changes in diastolic blood pressure (Mean + SD) mm of Hg

| Intervals | Diastolic Blood pressure (mm Hg) | | | Inter group comparison | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| | Group P | Group E | Group M | P-E | P-M | E-M |
| HP(VP given) | 62.4 \pm 8.91 | 61.2 \pm 8.15 | 56.9 \pm 6.76 | - | + | + |
| 2 min after VP | 72.7 \pm 3.80 | 66.1* \pm 5.49 | 65.55* \pm 4.63 | ++ | ++ | - |
| 4 min after VP | 74.5 \pm 2.59 | 70.1* \pm 4.17 | 68.8* \pm 3.48 | ++ | ++ | - |
| 6 min after VP | 76.2* \pm 1.88 | 73.3* \pm 2.55 | 70.8* \pm 2.92 | + | ++ | + |
| 8 min after VP | 76.4* \pm 2.24 | 74.5* \pm 1.98 | 72* \pm 4.19 | + | ++ | + |
| 10 min after VP | 76.8* \pm 2.71 | 75.6* \pm 2.57 | 73.8* \pm 5.45 | - | + | - |
| 14 min after VP | 76* \pm 3.94 | 75.6* \pm 3.26 | 74.0* \pm 5.69 | - | - | - |
| At 30 min of surgery | 76.7* \pm 4.16 | 72.9* \pm 6.70 | 72.1* \pm +8.75 | - | - | - |
| At the end of thesurgery | 78.1 \pm +1.94 | 78.5* \pm 1.53 | 77.8* \pm 2.44 | - | - | - |

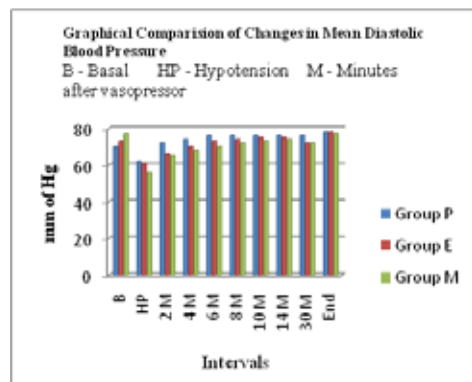
HP-Hypotension VP-Vasopressor agents

With in the groups values were compare between HP values and post VP With in the groups :Between the groups

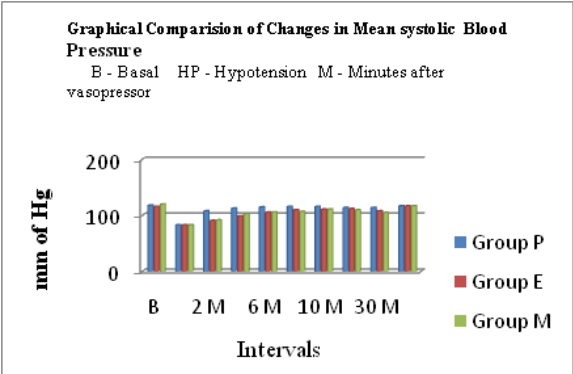
++ P< 0.001

* P <0.05 + P<0.05

0 P > 0.05 - P>0.05

**Graph 3**

In group P, post study drug values of heart rate were decreased significantly from the values at onset of the hypotension till end of the surgery. Whereas in group E, post study drug values remained high upto 30 min ($p>0.05$) and then decreased from the value of onset of hypotension ($p<0.05$). In group M, heart rates were high after study and drug values remained statistically non significant with values at onset of the hypotension till end of the surgery.

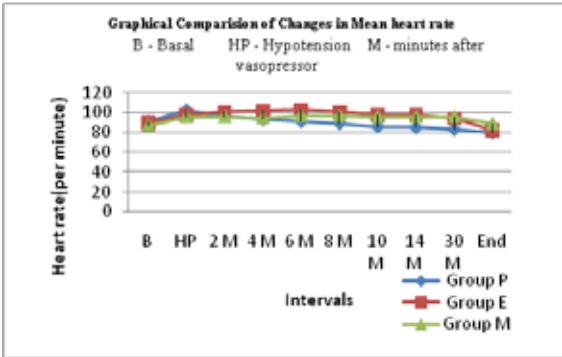


Graph 4

table-6: Changes in Heart rate (Mean + SD)

| Intervals | Heart rate (per minute) | | | Inter group Comparison P-E Inter comparison P-M | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|-----|-----|
| | Group P | Group E | Group M | P-E | P-M | E-M |
| HP(VP given) | 102.35±9.48 | 98.9 ±7.42 | 96.1 ±5.81 | - | + | - |
| 2 min after VP | 97.20*±7.10 | 101.15* ±9.45 | 96.5*±8.21 | - | - | - |
| 4 min after VP | 93.75*±7.17 | 102.35 * ±10.95 | 95.85 *8.10 | + | - | + |
| 6 min after VP | 91.70*±7.23 | 103.5 * ±12.98 | 97.65 * 2.32 | + | - | - |
| 8 min after VP | 89.7*±8.77 | 101.95*±8.47 | 97.1 * ±12.48 | ++ | + | - |
| 10 min after VP | 86.35*±10.62 | 98.7* ±13.83 | 96.7* ±10.46 | + | + | - |
| 14 min after VP | 85.50*±5.29 | 98.6 * ±6.34 | 96.35* ±14.52 | ++ | + | - |
| At 30 min of surgery | 83.90*±6.67 | 94.75* ±5.37 | 96.3 *±9.67 | ++ | + | - |
| At the end of the surgery | 80.85*±3.02 | 82.95* ±3.79 | 89.85* ±5.72 | - | ++ | ++ |

Graph 5

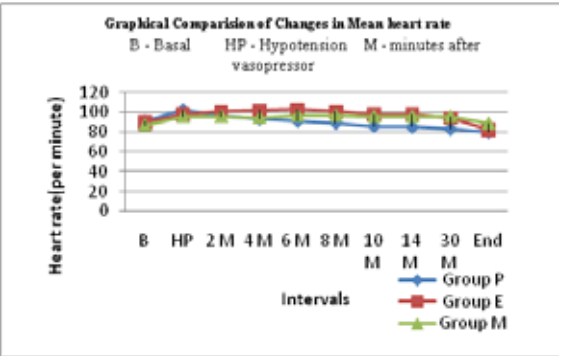


HP-Hypotension VP-Vasopressor agents
With in the groups values were compare between HP values and post VP With in the groups :Between the groups

++ P< 0.001
* P <0.05 + P<0.05
0 P > 0.05 - P>0.05

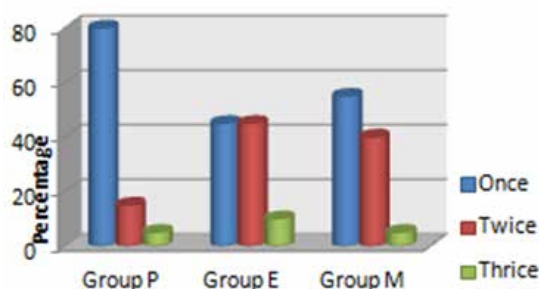
In group P, 80% patients required single bolus dose while 15% two and 5% three to maintain systolic pressure within 20% limit of basal value. In group E, 45% required single, 45% two and 10% three bolus doses. Whereas in group M,

55% required single, 40% two and 5% three doses.
One patient (5%) in each group developed bradycardia. In group P & E, 10% patients developed nausea and vomiting.
Apgar score did not reveal any untoward effect on foetal status since all new born of three groups had Apgar score greater than 7.



Graph 6

NO. of Doses required(in percentage)



Graph 7

DISCUSSION

After subarachnoid block for caesarean section, hypotension can be minimized by the use of IV fluid preload, avoidance of aortocaval compression and judicious use of a vasopressor agent. It has been shown that the percentage decrease in placental perfusion is related to the percentage reduction in maternal arterial pressure and not to the absolute reduction in pressure. For the purpose of this study, hypotension was defined as a decrease in arterial pressure greater than 20% from baseline systolic pressure.

Ephedrine and Mephentermine have got a mixed action directly as well as indirectly on alpha and beta receptors, whereas Phenylephrine has pure alpha receptor activity. Thomason and Colleagues reported that bolus Phenylephrine 100mcg is as effective as ephedrine 5mg restoring maternal arterial pressure above 100mmHg. Moran and colleagues gave ephedrine 10 mg or Phenylephrine 80 mcg IV bolus to maintain systolic arterial pressure above 100mmHg. They concluded that Phenylephrine is as effective as ephedrine and when used in small incremental bolus injections, it appears to have no adverse neonatal effects in healthy, non laboring parturient. Ramanathan and Colleagues studied in 127 healthy patients undergoing elective caesarean section under epidural anaesthesia. They concluded that transient maternal hypotension does not affect neonatal acid – base status, both ephedrine and Phenylephrine increase cardiac preload and agent like Phenylephrine does not cause foetal acidosis, when used for treating maternal hypotension.

In this study all the three vasopressor effectively maintained arterial pressure within 20% limit of baseline value though Phenylephrine maintained better in first 6min of bolus dose as compared to ephedrine and Mephentermine. This may be due to that, Phenylephrine has peak effect within one minute, whereas ephedrine has 2-5min and Mephentermine has 5min.

In our study Phenylephrine causes significant reduction in heart rate after the bolus dose, which is a consistent effect in Phenylephrine treated women in other studies also. In spinal anaesthesia, since there is decreased venous return, decreased venous pressure and a decreased right heart pressure thus slowing of the heart rate is expected on the basis of the Brain-bridge reflex. Bradycardia is also expected in high spinal, probably due to some paralysis of the cardiac accelerator nerve. we found that the maternal heart rate was slower with Phenylephrine than with ephedrine and Mephentermine because Phenylephrine lacks action on the beta receptors.

CONCLUSION

We have found that the Phenylephrine, Ephedrine and Mephentermine are effective in IV bolus form in maintenance of arterial pressure within 20% limit of baseline though Phenylephrine has quicker peak effect in comparison to Ephedrine & Mephentermine and it causes reduction in heart rate, which may be advantageous in cardiac patients and patients in whom tachycardia is undesirable.

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