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(ABSTRACT) INTRODUCTION: The use of ultrasound reduces the onset time, improves the quality of sensory block, and minimizes the risks associated with the block. There are few studies supporting the efficacy of ultrasound guided fascia iliaca block METHODOLOGY: 60 patients posted for femur surgeries admitted in Orthopaedics Department, were assessed for the inclusion and exclusion criteria and were included in the study after obtaining written informed consent. **RESULTS**: Among the patients undergoing spinal anaesthesia in fracture femur surgery, 3.3% of patients of both the groups had not satisfactory positioning, 36.7% of Group A and 33.3% of Group B had satisfactory positioning. 50% of Group A and 53.4% of Group B patients had good positioning, 10% of patients of both groups had optimal positioning. CONCLUSION: Therefore the positioning of the patients for spinal anaesthesia is comparable and is no significant difference is seen among both the groups.

KEYWORDS : Ultrasound Guided Fascia Iliaca Compartment Block , Paracetamol, Central Neuraxial Procedure

INTRODUCTION:

Fracture femur is a common orthopaedic problem following trauma and is increasing as the average age of the population increases. Femoral fractures usually cause considerable pain.¹ Untreated or under-treated pain and potent systemic analgesics can increase the risk of respiratory distress, delirium and other side effects, especially in elderly patients.² The relationship of pain relief to decreased morbidity and mortality remains controversial. The benefits of the acute analgesia play an important role in patient comfort. Although narcotics continue to be the mainstay for pre- and postoperative pain relief, in elderly, avoiding or using very low doses of opioids to treat pain significantly decreases the risk to them of developing delirium³.

Central neuraxial blocks such as spinal anaesthesia is the preferred technique for providing anaesthesia. Correct positioning during central neuraxial anesthesia is a prerequisite for successful procedure.⁴ However limb immobility and extreme pain are the deterrents for an ideal positioning. Various modalities like femoral nerve block, three in one nerve block, fascia iliaca block, systemic opioids and non opioids, have been advocated to provide analgesia and improve positioning in these patients The administration of a substantial amount of intravenous (i.v.) analgesic is usual practice during spinal block placement. Fascia iliaca block is proposed to provide analgesia and improve positioning in patients with femoral fractures^{5,6}.

The use of ultrasound reduces the onset time, improves the quality of sensory block, and minimizes the risks associated with the block. There are few studies supporting the efficacy of ultrasound guided fascia iliaca block. We decided to conduct this study with the aim to compare the benefits of block with and without paracetamol (iv) prior to positioning the patient. The quality of positioning for performing central neuraxial procedure will be assessed by ease of performing (no. of attempts, duration of SAB) central neuraxial procedure in patients undergoing surgery for fracture femur⁷⁸.

Methodology:

60 patients posted for femur surgeries admitted in Orthopaedics Department, were assessed for the inclusion and exclusion criteria and were included in the study after obtaining written informed consent.

Sample size:

The confidence level is estimated at 95%, Standard deviation 3.09, with a z value of $1.96\,$

The confidence interval or margin of error is estimated at +/-0.80 Assuming that 80 percent as power of the study, minimum sample size required for the study was calculated to be 58. In our study 60 subjects were chosen Study Design:

Prospective, Randomized, Double-blind, Controlled study.

Inclusion Criteria:

- 1. Patients belonging to ASA grade I and II.
- 2. Patients of either sex, between the age group 20 to 80 years.
- 3. Patients with fracture femur, posted for surgery under subarachnoid block.

(n=30 in FICB with 0.9% NS and n=30 in FICB with Paracetamol 1g)

4. Patients who give a valid informed consent.

Exclusion Criteria:

- 1. Patients not satisfying inclusion criteria.
- 2. Patients belonging to ASA grade III or IV.
- Patients with hemorrhagic diathesis, neurological disorders, psychiatric disorders.
- 4. Previous femoral bypass surgery.
- 5. Patients with allergy to local anaesthetics or paracetamol.
- 6. Patients with polytrauma, infection over the injection site.
- 7. Patients with liver diseases
- 8. Morbid obesity.
- Patients who will be administered with supplementary epidural or general anaesthesia.
- 10. Patients with spinal deformities.
- 11. Patients who decline consent

GROUP 1: Patients will receive ultrasound guided fascia iliaca compartment block with 30ml of 0.5% Ropivacaine with 30 min prior administration of 100ml NS I.

All patients with femoral fractures undergoing surgery under central neuraxial anaesthesia will be enrolled for the study.

GROUP 2: patients will receive fascia iliaca block with 30ml of 0.5% of Ropivacaine with 30min prior administration of inj Paracetamol 1g. Central neuraxial anesthesia will be performed in these patients after 30 minutes of giving block in lateral dependent position on the fractured site.

A detailed pre-anaesthetic checkup carried out in each patient. Patient is kept nil per orally 6 hours prior to surgery, i.v line secured, pre medicated with Inj Ranitidine 50mg iv, Inj Ondansetron 4mg iv and IVF Ringer Lactate infusion at 100ml/hr 3 hours prior to surgery. On arrival to Operation theatre, standard monitors including ECG, Pulse oximeter, and non invasive blood pressure will be attached and baseline vital parameters will be recorded.

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RESULTS: Table 1: NUMERIC RATING SCALE (NRS) FOR ASSESSMENT OF PAIN

TIME	GROUP A		GROUP B		PVALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD	
Baseline(BL)	8.1538	0.464	8.1	0.4806	0.6729
30 MIN	7.8846	0.3258	7.9	0.3051	0.08558
Positioning	2.5	0.7671	2.4666	0.5074	0.8465

Among the patients undergoing spinal anaesthesia in fracture femur surgery, there was no statistically significant difference in Numerical rating scale (NRS) for pain between the groups. Group A at baseline (mean=8.1538, SD=0.464), after 30 minutes (mean=7.8846, SD=0.3258), during positioning (mean=2.5, SD=0.7671)and Group B at baseline (mean=8.1, SD=0.4806), after 30 minutes (mean=7.9, SD=0.3051), during positioning (mean=2.466, SD=0. 0.5074) with a p value of >0.05 as per unpaired t test. Therefore we fail to reject the null hypothesis that there is no difference in the numerical rating scale between the intervention groups.

Table 2: QUALITY OF POSITIONING

QUALITY OF POSITIONING	GRO	GROUPA		GROUP B	
	No	%	No	%	
0 : NOT SATISFACTORY	1	3.3	1	3.3	
1 : SATISFACTORY	11	36.7	10	33.3	
2 : GOOD	15	50	16	53.4	
3 · OPTIMAL	3	10	3	10	

Among the patients undergoing spinal anaesthesia in fracture femur surgery, 3.3% of patients of both the groups had not satisfactory positioning, 36.7% of Group A and 33.3% of Group B had satisfactory positioning, 50% of Group A and 53.4% of Group B patients had good positioning, 10% of patients of both groups had optimal positioning. Therefore the positioning of the patients for spinal anaesthesia is comparable and is no significant difference is seen among both the groups.

Table 3: TIME TO PERFORM SUB ARACHANOID BLOCK

	GROUP A	GROUP B
N	30	30
MEAN	5.846	5.183
SD	2.538	2.155
P VALUE	0.2801	

Among the patients undergoing spinal anaesthesia in fracture femur surgery, there was no statistically significant difference in the time taken to perform the sub arachanoid block between Group A (mean=5.846, SD=2.538) and Group B (mean=5.183, SD=2.155) with a p value of 0.2801 (p > 0.05) as per unpaired t test. Therefore we fail to reject the null hypothesis that there is no difference in time taken to perform the sub arachanoid block between the intervention groups.

Table 4: ATTEMPTS TAKEN TO PERFORM SUB **ARACHANOID BLOCK**

ATTEMPT	GROUPA		GROU	GROUP B	
	No	%	No	%	
1	16	53.4	16	53.4	
2	11	36.6	10	33.3	
3	3	10	4	13.3	
TOTAL	30	100	30	100	

Among the patients undergoing spinal anaesthesia in fracture femur surgery, there was no significant difference in the no. of attempts taken to perform the sub arachanoid block between the 2 groups. Group A first, second and third attempt are 53.4%, 36.6% and 10% respectively and Group B first, second and third attempt are 53.4%, 33.3% and 13.3% respectively.

DISCUSSION:

This prospective, randomized, double blinded study, was done to evaluate the improvement in positioning for SAB with prior administration of inj paracetamol to fascia iliaca compartment block under ultrasound guidance with ropivacaine,. 60 patients satisfying the inclusion criteria were chosen and divided into two groups of thirty each. Group A patients received ultrasound guided fascia iliaca compartment block with 30ml of 0.5% Ropivacaine with 30 min prior administration of 100ml NS I.V while Group B patients received fascia iliaca compartment block with 30ml of 0.5% of Ropivacaine with 30min prior administration of inj Paracetamol 1g (i.v).

The mean age was in 56.566 ±11.536 FICB with NS group and 59.615 ±12.202 in FICB with Paracetamol group . The sex distribution in FICB with NS group was 14 males and 16 females while in FICB with Paracetamol group, there were 16 males and 14 females. The mean BMI in FICB group was 21.134 ±2.819 while in FICB with Paracetamol group it was 22.2 \pm 3.622. Thus both the groups were comparable and no significant difference is seen in demographic profile in terms of age, sex and BMI distribution as the P value was not significant (P>0.05). The duration since fracture to surgery was FICB 6.731±9.37 days and FICB with Paracetamol 6.933±10.194 was also insignificant (P>0.05).

The Numerical Rating Scale score during positioning was 2.5±0.7071 in FICB group and 2.466±0.507 in FICB with Paracetamol group and was statistically insignificant with a P value of 0.8465. It shows that fascia iliaca compartment block provides better analgesia for patient positioning in fracture femur surgeries and addition of Paracetamol i.v did not have significant change in the scores.

The quality of patient positioning in FICB group with a mean of 2.115±0.816 and FICB with Paracetamol group which had a mean of 2.2±0.846. The difference was statistically insignificant with a P value of 0.6935 (p > 0.005). It means that fascia iliaca compartment block provides better quality of patient positioning for spinal anaesthesia but addition of Paracetamol i.v did not have significant effect.

The time taken to perform subarachnoid block (time from beginning of positioning to end of spinal) in FICB group 5.846±02.538 compared to FICB with Paracetamol group 5.183±2.155. It was statistically insignificant with a P value of 0.2801.

The difference in hemodynamics and SpO2 between the 2 groups was statistically insignificant (P>0.005)

There were no complications of block like infection, block failure, vascular puncture, nerve damage or systemic toxicity of local anaesthetics in both groups.

In this study, Fascia Iliaca Compartment Block provided superior analgesia and addition of Paracetamol (i.v) did not improve analgesia significantly nor positioning comfort during spinal anaesthesia. The quality of patient positioning also did not show any significant difference with addition of Paracetamol (i.v). There was also no significant difference in either time taken to perform subarachnoid block or the no. of attempts taken to perform subarachanoid block as with other studies 9,10

CONCLUSION:

In this study the pre administration of inj Paracetamol 1g i.v to Fascia Iliaca Compartment Block did not produce any additional improvement in analgesia and positioning for central neuraxial blockade in patients posted for surgical repair of fracture femur.

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