Post-Cesarean Pain Associated with Skin Incision: Vertical versus Pfannenstiel

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Objective: The purpose of this study was to determine post-cesarean pain in elective vertical cesarean delivery compared to Pfannenstiel incision.

Material and Methods: This was the secondary data analysis from the primary study investigating the additional post-cesarean analgesia between ketorolac and meperidine. Parturients who had scheduled for elective cesarean delivery were recruited. All parturients underwent elective cesarean section via spinal anesthesia. Visual analogue scale (VAS) was used to evaluate postoperative pain at 3, 6, 12 and 24 hours. Rescue analgesia using either ketorolac or meperidine was applied when VAS was equal or more than 6. Type of skin incision was re-analyzed and compared to other parameters.

Figure 1 Number of primary C/S cases who had VAS ≤ 5

C/S: cesarean delivery, VAS: visual analog scale

Figure 2 Number of repeat C/S cases who had VAS ≤ 5

C/S: cesarean delivery, VAS: visual analog scale

Figure 3 Mean VAS of primary C/S cases who had VAS ≤ 5

C/S: cesarean delivery, VAS: visual analog scale

Figure 4 Mean VAS of repeat C/S cases who had VAS ≤ 5

C/S: cesarean delivery, VAS: visual analog scale

Results: A total of 580 pregnant women were recruited in this study. There were 276 and 304 cases in vertical and Pfannenstiel groups, respectively. Both groups showed no statistical significant among body mass index, parity, gestation age, estimated blood loss, birth weight, history of prior cesarean delivery and underlying diseases. In primary cesarean delivery, VAS of vertical group was higher than Pfannenstiel group at 3, 12 and 24 hours after surgery. In repeated cesarean delivery, VAS of Pfannenstiel group was higher than vertical group at 6 and 12 hours after operation. There was no side effect, i.e., nausea, vomiting, itching, respiratory depression and allergic reactions, in this study.

Conclusion: The postoperative pain after elective cesarean delivery of both vertical and Pfannenstiel incision were comparable.

Keyword: cesarean section, vertical incision, Pfannenstiel incision, pain

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