OPIOID FREE ANAESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA IN A PATIENT WITH OPIOID ALLERGY

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BACKGROUND: Allergic reactions and anaphylaxis secondary to opioids allergy constitute 1.9% of all hypersensitivity reactions related to anaesthesia. It is widely recommended that patients known to be allergic to opioids should be managed with Opioid Free Anaesthesia (OFA).

AIM OF STUDY: To assess the efficiency of the Mullimix solution (50µg Dexmedetomidine, 500mg lidocaine and 50mg Ketamine in 100ml N/S 0.9%), combined with continuous epidural injection of Ropivacaine 0.2%, on haemodynamic parameters, pain control and patient satisfaction.

METHOD: We present the case of a 73-year-old female patient, with a background of a previous reaction to opioids, undergoing a low anterior resection of the rectum. Before induction of general anaesthesia (GA), an epidural catheter was placed, as per routine practice. After an initial loading dose of 50µg of dexmedetomidine intravenously (IV) over 10 minutes, ondansetron 4mg IV and dexamethasone 8mg IV, IV induction of anaesthesia was performed with a Mullimix bolus dose of 0.2ml/kg, along with propofol (3mg/kg) and rocuronium (0.9mg/kg). A mixture of Desflurane/O₂/Air and a continuous IV infusion of Mullimix, at a rate of 0.2ml/kg/h, were used for maintenance. 20 minutes prior to the end of the procedure, the Mullimix infusion rate was reduced to 0.1ml/kg/h, and after an initial 10ml dose of ropivacaine 0.3% epidurally, a continuous epidural infusion of 0.2% ropivacaine was initiated. In addition, paracetamol 1g IV, parecoxib 40mg IV and 40mg/kg MgSO₄ over 20 minutes were administered.

RESULTS: Mullimix was infused for 155 minutes (2 hours, 35 minutes), with a total administered volume of 42ml (21µg dexmedetomidine, 210mg lidocaine and 21mg ketamine). The patient remained hemodynamically stable, a 3-4/10 VAS score was achieved and no nausea, vomiting, disturbing dreams or delirium were noted.

CONCLUSIONS: The Mullimix solution, in combination with regional anaesthesia, appears to be a good choice for the management of patients with opioid allergies, providing a high level of perioperative analgesia.