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Postoperative analgesic use pattern in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Bangladesh

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Statement of the Problem: Postoperative pain is the most common problem following surgery whether patient undergoes general anesthesia or subarachnoid block. Poorly controlled postoperative pain is as associated with several complications like pneumonia, myocardial ischemia, paralytic ileus, thromboembolism as well as an increased chance of development of chronic pain. So effective postoperative analgesia is a crucial component of surgical care. Different pharmacological modalities are available, and continue to evolve for reducing and managing postoperative pain.

Purpose of this Study: The objective of the present study was to find out the pattern of postoperative analgesic use in first postoperative day in different surgeries in a tertiary care hospital of private setting in Bangladesh.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: A prospective observational study was conducted among 600 patients undergoing different surgeries in a tertiary care hospital of private setting in Dhaka, Bangladesh from November 2017 to April 2018. The demographic data, types of surgery, types of therapy, choice of analgesic were collected.

Findings: Out of 600, 306 patients (51%) were male and 294 (49%) were female. Highest bulk of patients were from department of general surgery (26%), followed by department of Urology (24.5%) and department of Obstetrics & Gynecology (22.5%). Majority of patients were age group 30-39 years (26%), followed by 50-59 years (23.5%) and 40-49 years (21.5%). 248 patients (41.33%) had received monotherapy of analgesic drug, whether 276 patients (46%), 57 patients (9.5%) and 19 patients (3.2%) received two drugs combination, three drugs combination, four drugs combination respectively. Opioid analgesic, Pethidine, was the most commonly utilized analgesic as monotherapy (69.3%), followed by dexmedetomidine (20.2%) and epidural analgesic, Bupivacaine (19.4%). Combination of pethidine and paracetamol (48.2%) was the most common followed by combination of pethidine and ketorolac (12.7%) as two drug combination. As three drug combination, pethidine, paracetamol and diclofenac (35.1%) was widely used.

Conclusion & Significance: Pethidine was the preferred analgesic for first postoperative day in different surgical cases.