Naloxone and its Influence on Nausea, Vomiting and Postoperative Pain in Pediatric Patients

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BACKGROUND: The use of opioids carries side effects such as nausea and vomiting, which can sometimes be more annoying than the pain itself. We studied if naloxone infusion at low doses (0.25mcg / kg / h) may reduce the incidence of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) after scoliosis surgery in pediatric patients.

METHOD: Observational cohort study with a total of 70 pediatric patients undergoing definitive scoliosis surgery, separated into two groups, one exposed to naloxone (n = 35) and one not exposed to naloxone (n = 35). The pain (mild-moderate-severe) and the existence or not of PONV and its severity were taken into account.

RESULTS: it was found that the relative reduction of PONV in the first 24 hours was 67% with RR <1, demonstrating a protective effect of naloxone, however the differences were not statistically significant respect to the control group.

CONCLUSIONS: The prophylactic infusion of naloxone in our patients has a weak protective effect against PONV without having an effect on the degree of pain, so we maintain its use during the first 24 hours post- scoliosis surgery in pediatric patients.