

Interscalene Blocks for Postoperative Analgesia for Arthroscopic Shoulder Surgery and its Cost Implication on the National Health Services in the UK

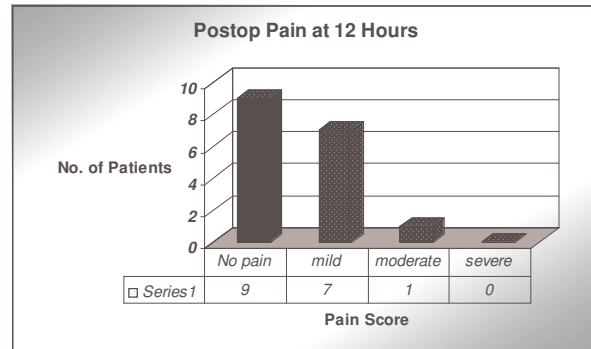
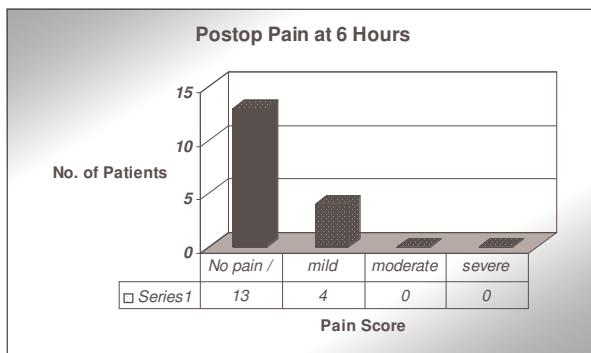
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A prospective audit of 17 patients who underwent arthroscopic shoulder surgery under general anaesthesia with interscalene block. The targets as per recommendations by the RCOA² were

- < 10% should opt for an alternative method of pain relief
- < 5% reporting of severe pain in the next 48 hours after discharge
- > 85% satisfied with management of pain at home

All patients were given written and verbal information regarding the anaesthetic procedure. The data collected were pain and PONV scores at 6 hours, 12 hours and at discharge.

Results – All set targets were achieved.



None of the patients required rescue analgesia with intra muscular morphine. Patients did not receive any antiemetics perioperatively. If offered again, 15 patients (88 %) would definitely opt for the same anaesthetic technique the next time.

None of our patients required any medical attention after 7 pm on the day of the operation and hence we have now, safely added arthroscopic shoulder surgery to our “day case trolley”. With this technique, we aim to discharge our patients the same day and effectively and positively impact our Trust’s financial stand saving us about £ 25,000 per year.

References

1 Rawal N. Analgesia for Day-Case Surgery. British Journal of Anaesthesia 2001; 87:73-87

2 Raising the Standard : A Compendium of Audit Recipes (Second edition 2006); Section 5, 105-117.