

Letter to the Editor

Postoperative nausea and vomiting in facial fracture patients: a randomized and controlled trial on the effect of dexamethasone

We thank our colleagues for their interest in our article and for their valuable comments.

The difference in intraoperative analgesic consumption was likely small. There was no statistically significant difference in sex ($P = 0.459$), age ($P = 0.700$), or duration of anesthesia ($P = 0.363$) between the study groups. Moreover, inclusion criteria for the present study were that patients were generally healthy and underwent surgical treatment of ‘simple’ mandibular, zygomatic, or orbital fractures that were managed with standardized surgical methods. No severe, comminuted, or multiple facial fractures requiring extensive surgery were included. In addition, approaches were exclusively local, i.e., extraoral approaches in mandibular fractures, and no coronal approaches were used in zygomatic fractures.

Intraoperative pain control was standardized as follows: Each patient received 0.1–0.2 mg fentanyl during induction of anesthesia. During surgery, a bolus of fentanyl (0.05–0.1 mg) was given if the patient’s heart rate and/or systolic blood pressure increased by 15%.

Ondansetron was not given routinely to all patients. It was used as a rescue and administered immediately when patients needed it.

Of the 119 patients included in the study, 96 received opioids after surgery: 45 were in the study group and 51 were in the control group; this difference was not statistically significant ($P = 0.2269$).

We hope that this response answers your questions satisfactorily.

Funding

None.

Competing interests

The authors have declared that no conflicts of interest exist.

Ethical approval

The Research Ethics Board of the Department of Surgery and the Internal Review Board of the Division of Musculoskeletal Surgery, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Finland, approved the study (Dno 33/E6/06) in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki 1975 and amendments thereafter.

Patient consent

Informed written consent was obtained from all patients.

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