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Postoperative shoulder pain: Comparison of standard versus low pressure pneumoperitoneum laparoscopic cholecystectomy

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Introduction: Post laparoscopic pain syndrome is characterized by abdominal and shoulder tip pain. We conducted a prospective comparative study to evaluate post-operative shoulder tip pain in low pressure versus standard pressure pneumoperitoneum laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

Method: Our study was done at Department of surgery, KRL Hospital over period of 6 months from 22nd August 2013 to 22nd February 2014. A total of 456 patients with symptomatic gallstones were equally divided in two groups A and B. Group A patients underwent low pressure (7-8 mm of Hg) pneumo-peritoneum, Group B patients underwent standard pressure (12-14 mm of Hg) pneumo-peritoneum laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Patients with complications of cholelithiasis, previous abdominal surgery, bleeding disorders and those in ASA category 3 or more were excluded from study.

Result: The average age of patients was 46.2 ± 13.6 years in group A compared to 43.5 ± 12.9 in group B. Male to female ratio was 26.3% to 73.7% group A compared to 23.2% to 76.85 in group B. In group A 14 (6.1%) had no pain, 26 (11.4%) had VAS between 1-7 and 188 (82.5%) had VAS of 8-10. In group B 164 (72.6%) patients had no shoulder tip pain, 42 (18.6%) had VAS of 1-7 and 20 (8.8%) had VAS OF 8-10. There was statistically significant (p -value= <0.001) difference in postoperative shoulder tip pain between standard low pressure groups.

Conclusion: It is concluded that reducing the pressure of pneumo-peritoneum to 7-8 mm of Hg tended to produce lower incidence of postoperative shoulder tip pain. It can be suggested that low pressure pneumo-peritoneum based laparoscopic cholecystectomy may be applied in majority of patients, except for those who are obese.

Biography

She has done her postgraduate training in General surgery at Holyfamily hospital. In January 2012 she joined Shifa College of Medicine as Senior Registrar and was promoted to post of Assistant Professor in 2014.

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