

Topical pharyngeal anesthesia for unsedated esophagogastroduodenoscopy in cirrhotic patients

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Background and Goal of study: Pharyngeal anesthesia by using topical lidocaine is generally used as pretreatment for unsedated esophagogastroduodenoscopy (UEGD). The effectiveness of topical lidocaine for UEGD in cirrhotic patients has been limited reports in the medical literature. The aim of the study was to study the impact of topical pharyngeal anesthesia for UEGD procedure in cirrhotic patients in the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO) Endoscopy Training Center in Thailand.

Materials and Methods: Retrospectively analyzed the patients on whom UEGD procedures had been performed during the period of December, 2007 to April, 2009 in Siriraj Hospital. The patients' characteristics, pre-anesthetic problems, anesthetic time, indication of procedure and anesthesia-related complications were assessed. The primary outcome variable of the study was the successful completion of the procedure. The secondary outcome variables were anesthesia-related complications.

Results and Discussion: There were 344 cirrhotic patients who underwent UEGD procedure during the study period. All UEGD procedures were succeeded. The mean age of the patients was 55.9 ± 12.0 years, and most were American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) class III (55.2%). Indications for this procedure were esophageal varice (55.5%) and surveillance (44.5%). The mean anesthetic time was 13.5 ± 7.4 minutes. The anesthesia-related complication rate was relatively high. Complications in patients who had Child-Pugh classification C were significantly higher than those in the patients who had Child-Pugh classification A and B. All anesthesia-related complications were transient, easily treated, with no adverse sequelae.

Conclusion: Topical pharyngeal anesthesia for UEGD procedure in the cirrhotic patients is relatively safe and effective. Anesthesia-related complications in severe cirrhotic patients were relatively high.

Biography

Somchai Amornyotin has completed his FRCAT from the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand. He is the anesthesiologist staff of Siriraj GI Endoscopy Center and the Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital. He has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member and reviewer of several international journals such as World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Gastroenterology Insights, BMC Anesthesiology, Digestive Disease and Science, Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Research, World Journal Gastroenterology, Clinical and Experimental Gastroenterology, European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology etc.

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