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Postoperative continuous wound infiltration with ropivacaine after panniculectomy and abdominoplasty operation: Is it effective?

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Objectives: Local anesthesia infiltration is widely used as an effective method for post operative pain relief after operations. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of continuous wound infusion of ropivacaine for post operative pain relief, incidence of nausea and vomiting, bowel movement after panniculectomy and abdominoplasty operation.

Materials & Methods: 50 patients undergoing abdominoplasty were enrolled in this prospective, randomized, double blinded, placebo controlled trial. Patients were divided into two groups, group S (control group, 0.9% saline infusion group n=25) and group R (ropivacaine group n=25). The measured outcomes postoperatively were pain score at rest and movement, postoperative morphine consumption, the incidence of nausea and vomiting, time to bowel recovery, mean hospital stay and patient satisfaction postoperatively.

Results: Pain scores, incidence of nausea and vomiting and hospital stay were significantly reduced in ropivacaine infusion group.

Conclusion: Surgical wound infusion with ropivacaine after panniculectomy and abdominoplasty operation can improve pain relief at rest and accelerate recovery and patient discharge.

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