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Pro/Con: We should never use narcotics in outpatient procedures

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Disclosure: Baxter International Inc.

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"The modern tendency in anaesthesia is towards specialization, complexity, and polypharmacy. The more drugs are used, the more difficult does it become to attribute changes in the patient to their true cause."

Noel Alexander Gillespie (1904-1955)
British Journal of Anaesthesia 22:192,1950

Reminiscences of Anaesthesiology by Degradol

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Opioid-Free Anesthesia

Just because we can,
does it mean we should?

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Opioid-Free Anesthesia Does NOT Reduce Postoperative Opioids

Impact of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery and Opioid-Free Anesthesia on Opioid Prescriptions at Discharge From the Hospital: A Historical-Prospective Study
Brandal D, et al: Anesth Analg 2017; 125: 1784-92

- Reduced intraoperative opioid use did not influence postoperative opioid prescribing
- Need to focus on discharge prescribing practices

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Opioid-Free Anesthesia: Controversies

- Optimal drug combination is unclear
- Optimal drug dosing is unclear
 - Administered as fixed dose infusions
 - Cannot be titrated to patient needs
- Timing of discontinuation is unclear
- Drugs have a ceiling effect with small therapeutic index for safety
- Require equipment, which can be burdensome and costly

Shanbhanna H, et al: Anesthesiology 2021; 134: 645-59

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Consensus Guidelines on the Use of Intravenous Ketamine Infusions for Acute Pain Management From the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, the American Academy of Pain Medicine, and the American Society of Anesthesiologists

Schwenk ES, et al: Reg Anesth Pain Med 2017

- No role of single bolus dose
- Recommended for opioid-tolerant patients undergoing painful surgical procedures when regional analgesia is not possible
- Adverse effects: hallucinations, nightmares
 - Avidan MS, et al: Lancet 2017; 390: 267-75; Vilisides PE et al: Br J Anaesth 2018; 121: 249-59
- Contraindications: Poorly controlled CV disease, hepatic dysfunction, high intracranial and intraocular pressures, active psychosis, pregnancy

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Dexmedetomidine: Not as Safe as You Think

- Promoted as having no respiratory effects
 - Similar upper airway collapsibility as propofol, regardless of level of sedation
 - Can cause upper airway obstruction
- Prolonged risk hypotension requires hemodynamics monitoring after treatment cessation (i.e., PACU and beyond)

Upper Airway Collapsibility during Dexmedetomidine and Propofol Sedation in Healthy Volunteers

A Nonblinded Randomized Crossover Study
Lodenia A, et al. Anesthesiology 2019; 131: 962-73

Discharge Readiness after Propofol with or without Dexmedetomidine for Colonoscopy

A Randomized Controlled Trial
Edkopolu IU, et al. Anesthesiology 2019; 131: 279-86

Perioperative adverse events attributed to α_2 -adrenoceptor agonists in patients not at risk of cardiovascular events: systematic review and meta-analysis
Demiri M, et al. Br J Anaesth 2019; 123:795-807

Kleemann AB, et al. Anesth Analg 2020; 120: 1460-3

Time (minutes) after Infusion is Terminated	Dexmedetomidine Sedation Level (100% O2 Saturation)	Propofol Sedation Crossover Levels (100% O2 Saturation)
0	1.0	1.0
50	0.5	0.8
100	0.2	0.5
150	0.1	0.3
200	0.1	0.2
250	0.1	0.1

Intravenous lidocaine: it's all about a risk-benefit analysis

Intravenous lidocaine: benefits require better evidence, and potential risks apply to all team members

Anaesthesia 2021; 76: 717–722

The use of intravenous lidocaine for postoperative pain and recovery: international consensus statement on efficacy and safety Foo I, et al: Anaesthesia 2021; 76: 238-50

Do not use at the same time as, or within the period of action of, other LA interventions, particularly nerve blocks

Unlicensed intravenous lidocaine for postoperative pain: always a safer 'licence to stop' than to start

Pandit JJ, McGuire N: Anaesthesia 2021; 76: 156-60

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General anesthetic techniques for enhanced recovery after surgery: Current controversies

Garish P. Joshi, MBBS, MD, FFARSCI, Professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management *

Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology 35 (2021) 531–541

- Opioids remain an integral part of perioperative care because of their high analgesic efficacy
- Opioids reduce propofol and inhalation anesthetic requirements
 - Most of the MAC/propofol reduction occurs at modest opioid doses
 - Egan TD: Br J Anaesth 2019 ;122: e127-e135
- Opioids mitigate hyperdynamic responses to surgical insult
- Opioid-sparing NOT Opioid-free is the best approach

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SUMMARY

- Clinical benefits of opioid-sparing approach outweigh the challenges and limitations associated with opioid-free strategies
 - Benefits of opioid-free strategies are questionable and there are concerns of potential adverse effects
- Optimal multimodal technique should include combination of acetaminophen, NSAID, dexamethasone and loco/regional analgesia with opioids used for rescue

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