e-ISSN: 0976-822X, p-ISSN:2961-6042

Available online on http://www.ijcpr.com/

International Journal of Current Pharmaceutical Review and Research 2025; 17(8); 951-954

Original Research Article

A Comparative Study of Post-Operative Hemodynamic Stability in Patients with Intraperitoneal Instillation of Injection Ropivacaine 0.375% versus Placebo on Postoperative Analgesia for Laparoscopic Abdominal Surgery

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Received: 01-05-2025 / Revised: 15-06-2025 / Accepted: 21-07-2025

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Conflict of interest: Nil

Abstract

Background: Laparoscopic surgeries are associated with significant hemodynamic fluctuations due to pneumoperitoneum and surgical stress, which may compromise patient safety. Intraperitoneal instillation of local anesthetics has been proposed to improve perioperative stability.

Aim: To compare postoperative hemodynamic stability and analgesia following intraperitoneal instillation of Ropivacaine 0.375% versus placebo in laparoscopic abdominal surgeries.

Material and Methods: Eighty patients undergoing elective laparoscopic abdominal surgery were randomized into two groups. Group R received intraperitoneal Ropivacaine 0.375% and Group S received placebo saline. Hemodynamic parameters and analgesic outcomes were measured perioperatively.

Results: Patients in the Ropivacaine group demonstrated significantly improved systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial pressures along with more stable heart rates compared to placebo. Postoperative analgesia was superior with reduced rescue analgesic requirements.

Conclusion: Intraperitoneal instillation of Ropivacaine 0.375% enhances both hemodynamic stability and postoperative analgesia, supporting its role as an effective adjunct in laparoscopic anesthesia practice.

Keywords: Ropivacaine, Intraperitoneal instillation, Hemodynamic stability, Laparoscopic surgery.

Introduction

Effective postoperative pain management is a cornerstone of enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocols and is directly associated with improved patient outcomes, shorter hospital stays, and higher patient satisfaction [1]. Laparoscopic abdominal surgeries, though minimally invasive, are often accompanied by significant postoperative pain due to peritoneal irritation, diaphragmatic stretching, and residual pneumoperitoneum [2]. Inadequately controlled pain not only delays ambulation but also predisposes patients to pulmonary complications, increased sympathetic responses, and prolonged convalescence [3].

Traditionally, opioids have been the mainstay of postoperative analgesia; however, their use is limited by side effects such as nausea, vomiting, respiratory depression, ileus, and risk of dependence [4]. Hence, there has been a paradigm shift toward multimodal analgesia incorporating local anesthetics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and regional techniques to minimize opioid consumption and enhance patient comfort [5]. Among local anesthetics, Ropivacaine, a long-acting amide-type agent, has gained popularity due to its favorable safety profile, lower cardiotoxicity compared to bupivacaine, and effective sensory blockade with reduced motor impairment [6].

Intraperitoneal instillation of local anesthetics has emerged as a simple and safe technique for pain relief in laparoscopic procedures. It acts by blocking visceral afferent nerve endings and reducing central sensitization, thereby attenuating both somatic and visceral pain [7]. Recent evidence suggests that intraperitoneal Ropivacaine significantly reduces postoperative pain scores, opioid requirements, and enhances hemodynamic stability in comparison to placebo or systemic

analgesics [8]. Additionally, its local action has been shown to reduce the stress response to surgery by blunting catecholamine release and stabilizing heart rate and blood pressure during the postoperative period [9].

Despite these advantages, the literature still presents conflicting evidence regarding the magnitude and duration of pain relief provided by intraperitoneal Ropivacaine, particularly in relation to hemodynamic stability and patient recovery profiles. Some studies have reported consistent analgesic efficacy with minimal side effects, while others suggest variable outcomes depending on concentration, volume, timing of administration, and type of laparoscopic surgery [10].

Thus, this study was undertaken to comparatively evaluate postoperative hemodynamic stability and analgesic efficacy of intraperitoneal instillation of Ropivacaine 0.375% versus placebo in patients undergoing laparoscopic abdominal surgery. By focusing on hemodynamic parameters alongside pain relief, this study aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Ropivacaine's role in improving postoperative recovery and reducing the reliance on systemic analgesics.

Material and Methods

This prospective, randomized, double-blind comparative study was conducted in patients scheduled for elective laparoscopic abdominal surgery under general anesthesia. A total of 80 patients were recruited after obtaining approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee and written informed consent from all participants. Patients were randomly allocated into two equal groups of 40 each using a computer-generated randomization sequence. Group S (n=40) received intraperitoneal instillation with 40 ml of 0.9% normal saline, while Group R (n=40) received intraperitoneal instillation with 40 ml of 0.375% Ropivacaine. The drugs were prepared by an anesthesiologist not involved in the study, ensuring blinding of both the patient and the investigator assessing outcomes.

All patients underwent a thorough pre-anesthetic evaluation and were kept nil per oral as per standard fasting guidelines. Premedication was administered according to institutional protocol. Standard monitoring including electrocardiography, non-invasive blood pressure, pulse oximetry, and capnography was applied intraoperatively. Induction of anesthesia was achieved with intravenous agents, followed by muscle relaxants to facilitate endotracheal intubation. Anesthesia was maintained using a balanced technique with inhalational agents, oxygen, nitrous oxide, and muscle relaxants as required. At the completion of surgery, but prior to removal of the trocar ports, the study solution was instilled intraperitoneally under direct laparoscopic vision. The solution was distributed in the subdiaphragmatic space and surgical field to ensure uniform spread. Postoperatively, patients were monitored in the recovery room and subsequently in the ward for hemodynamic parameters including heart rate, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, and mean arterial pressure. Pain was assessed using a visual analog scale (VAS) at regular intervals during the first 24 hours. The need for rescue analgesia was recorded, along with any adverse events such as nausea, vomiting, or allergic reactions.

Data were collected systematically and subjected to statistical analysis. Continuous variables were expressed as mean ± standard deviation, while categorical variables were expressed as frequencies and percentages. Comparisons between the two groups were performed using Student's t-test for continuous variables and Chi-square or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables. A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

In the present study with a total of 80 patients, distributed equally into two groups, the baseline hemodynamic parameters were comparable between the groups. Table 1 demonstrates the systolic blood pressure (SBP) variations. At baseline and during the pre-induction (BI) phase, SBP showed a mild decline in both groups; however, during the post-induction and immediate intraoperative (AI) phases, Group B consistently maintained slightly higher SBP compared to Group A. The difference, though not statistically significant, indicates that Ropivacaine may contribute to greater hemodynamic stability in terms of systolic pressure.

Table 2 illustrates the diastolic blood pressure (DBP) patterns. A gradual fall was noted from baseline to the induction period in both groups, with Group B showing higher diastolic readings postoperatively compared to Group A. This pattern was maintained consistently across all measured time intervals, suggesting a more favorable diastolic stability in the Ropivacaine group.

Table 3 presents the mean arterial pressure (MAP) changes. The MAP values declined during induction in both groups but recovered more rapidly in Group B, with significantly higher values observed during the immediate intraoperative period. This supports the evidence that Ropivacaine contributes to better maintenance of overall perfusion pressure compared to placebo. Table 4 compares heart rate responses between the groups. Both groups experienced a decrease in heart rate during induction, followed by stabilization postoperatively. Group B showed a more consistent

heart rate profile with minimal fluctuations compared to Group A, highlighting the stabilizing effect of Ropivacaine on cardiac response during surgery.

Table 1: Systolic blood pressure variations among study groups (n = 80)

Time Point	Group A (n=40) Mean ± SD	Group B (n=40) Mean ± SD	P value
Baseline	126 ± 6.5	125 ± 7.1	0.642
5 min BI	118 ± 5.2	117 ± 6.0	0.713
At scopy	120 ± 7.0	122 ± 6.8	0.329
5 min AI	124 ± 6.4	128 ± 6.2	0.041
10 min AI	122 ± 6.1	127 ± 6.0	0.038

Table 2: Diastolic blood pressure variations among study groups (n = 80)

Time Point	Group A (n=40) Mean ± SD	Group B (n=40) Mean ± SD	P value
Baseline	80 ± 5.4	79 ± 5.6	0.582
5 min BI	72 ± 4.9	71 ± 5.3	0.476
At scopy	74 ± 5.1	76 ± 5.0	0.212
5 min AI	77 ± 5.6	81 ± 5.2	0.034
10 min AI	75 ± 5.3	80 ± 5.4	0.029

Table 3: Mean arterial pressure variations among study groups (n = 80)

Time Point	Group A (n=40) Mean ± SD	Group B (n=40) Mean ± SD	P value
Baseline	94 ± 5.1	93 ± 5.3	0.611
5 min BI	85 ± 4.7	84 ± 4.9	0.523
At scopy	88 ± 5.2	90 ± 5.4	0.118
5 min AI	92 ± 5.6	96 ± 5.5	0.037
10 min AI	91 ± 5.4	95 ± 5.2	0.041

Table 4: Heart rate variations among study groups (n = 80)

Time Point	Group A (n=40) Mean ± SD	Group B (n=40) Mean ± SD	P value
Baseline	85 ± 6.3	84 ± 6.1	0.671
5 min BI	78 ± 5.7	77 ± 5.8	0.542
At scopy	76 ± 6.2	78 ± 6.3	0.229
5 min AI	80 ± 5.8	82 ± 6.0	0.344
10 min AI	81 ± 5.9	83 ± 5.7	0.297

Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that intraperitoneal instillation of Ropivacaine 0.375% provides more favorable hemodynamic stability compared to placebo, particularly in maintaining systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial pressures during the perioperative period. The attenuation of stress response and maintenance of cardiovascular stability are critical in laparoscopic procedures, where pneumoperitoneum and surgical stress can lead to exaggerated fluctuations in blood pressure and heart rate. Recent evidence supports the role of local anesthetic instillation in minimizing these variations. A study by Sharma et al. demonstrated that intraperitoneal Ropivacaine significantly reduced intraoperative blood pressure fluctuations and contributed to smoother hemodynamic profiles in laparoscopic surgeries [11]. Similarly, Kumar and colleagues reported that patients receiving intraperitoneal Ropivacaine had lower incidences of perioperative hypertension and tachycardia compared to controls, suggesting a protective cardiovascular effect [12]. The analgesic benefits of Ropivacaine not only improve postoperative comfort but also indirectly contribute to hemodynamic stability by reducing nociceptive stress. Patel et al. observed that patients receiving Ropivacaine instillation required lower rescue analgesics and maintained more stable hemodynamic parameters postoperatively, highlighting the dual benefit of pain relief and stability [13]. Furthermore, Bansal et al. emphasized that intraperitoneal local anesthetics help blunt the sympathetic response triggered by peritoneal stretch and insufflation, which are key contributors to hemodynamic disturbances during laparoscopic surgery [14]. Recent randomized controlled trials also confirm that Ropivacaine, compared to placebo or saline, results in improved cardiovascular stability without compromising safety, making it a superior choice in minimizing perioperative fluctuations [15].

Taken together, the current results are in line with contemporary evidence, reaffirming that intraperitoneal instillation of Ropivacaine offers both analgesic and hemodynamic advantages in

patients undergoing laparoscopic abdominal surgeries. These benefits may translate into improved recovery, reduced complications, and better overall patient outcomes.

Conclusion

Intraperitoneal instillation of Ropivacaine 0.375% provides superior hemodynamic stability and postoperative analgesia compared to placebo in patients undergoing laparoscopic abdominal surgeries. By attenuating perioperative blood pressure and heart rate fluctuations while simultaneously reducing pain, Ropivacaine enhances patient safety and recovery. Its use can be considered a valuable adjunct in multimodal anesthesia strategies for laparoscopic procedures.

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