

A RETROSPECTIVE CHART REVIEW TO EXPLORE THE DIFFERENCES IN OPIOID NAÏVE AND TOLERANT PATIENTS

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Introduction: Patients who are opioid tolerant are difficult to manage perioperatively for pain while maintaining patient safety.

Identification of the problem: There is a gap in the literature related to perioperative equianalgesic dosing protocols and monitoring guidelines.

Purpose of the Study: The goal of this research was to explore the differences in opioid naïve and tolerant patients to develop a protocol for patients. In Neuro-Spine surgical patients, is there a difference in patient characteristics and requirements for opioid naïve versus opioid tolerant?

Methodology: Design: Retrospective descriptive study. Sample: Patients were chosen randomly using most recent patients who were opioid tolerant or naïve. Measurement: An Excel spreadsheet was used to collect data variables. Data Collection: Patient data was pulled from electronic medical record through chart review. Data Analysis: Sample groups were analyzed using frequency tables and t-tests.

Results: There were 23 patients in the opioid naïve group and 19 patients in the opioid tolerant group. On average, the morphine equivalent for the opioid tolerant group was higher with the exception of the opioids received in the operating room. The only statistically significant difference ($p=0.04$) was with the opioid tolerant group requiring more opioids within 8 hours on the floor.

Discussion: There was not a difference in the amount of opioids used for patients who were opioid naïve and tolerant in the OR, which was not an expected outcome and led to a review of the processes for identifying patients who are opioid naïve or tolerant. Knowing what the differences are between these groups empowers nurses to add additional monitoring to patients for the naïve or tolerant patient.

Conclusion: With a better understanding of the differences between opioid naïve and tolerant Neuro-Spine patients, a comprehensive perioperative management plan can now be developed to provide different management and monitoring techniques.

Implications for perianesthesia nurses and future research: There is a need for future research to address the assessment needs and requirement differences in opioid naïve and tolerant patients, which will aid in the care of patients through a better understanding of their opioid requirements, response and monitoring.