Intravenous morphine analgesia for children undergoing tonsillectomy: clinical trial

Araújo MCO, Vilarinho BF, Avelino MAG.

Conclusion
The administration of intravenous morphine during surgery reduced pain intensity in the immediate postoperative period, by evaluation of the children themselves and by parents/guardians, without increasing the awakening time from general anesthesia or adverse effects.

Introduction
Morphine is an opioid that can be used in pediatric patients for the treatment of postoperative pain, but it is rarely used in children undergoing tonsillectomy, mainly for fear of causing excessive sedation and postoperative respiratory depression.

Objective
To evaluate the use of morphine for postoperative analgesia in children undergoing tonsillectomy.

Methods
Randomized clinical trial with 57 children aged 5 to 12 years undergoing elective surgery tonsillectomy under standardized general anesthesia and distributed in two groups to receive intra-operative analgesia. One group received morphine 0.1 mg.kg⁻¹ intravenously immediately after intubation and other group did not. Postoperative pain was evaluated independently by parents/guardians and children through the Faces Pain Scale at times of 30, 60, 120, 180 and 240 minutes. Time of awakening from anesthesia, the need for rescue analgesics and adverse effects were also observed.

Results
The group that used morphine showed lower levels of postoperative pain in the scales assessed both by the children at 30 min, as their parents/guardians, at 30, 60 and 180 minutes, without increasing the time of awakening from anesthesia and without significant adverse effects. There was a greater need for rescue analgesic in the group that did not use morphine, with 51.85% of them requiring postoperative analgesics. The significance value of p < 0.05.

We are trying to provide hope and care to help every child in our country.