Intrathecal morphine + oral gabapentin aids pain management

January 11 2022

(HealthDay)—Combining intrathecal morphine (ITM) and oral

gabapentin (GABA) improves pain management in teens undergoing spinal fusion for scoliosis, according to a study recently published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery and Research*.

Ying Li, M.D., from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and colleagues evaluated whether perioperative GABA and ITM provide more effective pain control than ITM alone after posterior spinal fusion (PSF) for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. Analysis included 50 matched patients (aged 11 to 18 years).

The researchers found that the ITM+GABA group had significantly lower mean total oxycodone consumption during the hospitalization (0.798 versus 1.036 mg/kg). Pain scores were significantly more consistent throughout the postoperative period in the ITM+GABA group, although the ITM group had a lower mean pain score between midnight and 8 am on postoperative day 1. Furthermore, less nausea/vomiting (52 versus 84 percent) and pruritus (44 versus 72 percent) were experienced by the ITM+GABA group versus the ITM group. Groups were similar for time to physical therapy discharge and length of hospital stay.

"Reducing the number of opioids consumed by adding non-narcotic medications, which is termed 'multimodal pain management,' makes for a much better experience for adolescents undergoing this procedure for scoliosis," Li said in a statement.

More information: Abstract/Full Text

Copyright © 2021 HealthDay. All rights reserved.

Citation: Intrathecal morphine + oral gabapentin aids pain management (2022, January 11) retrieved 4 May 2024 from

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.