

Relief of post-tonsillectomy pain by release of lidocaine from fibrin glue.

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Abstract:

Objectives: Pain inevitably develops after resection of the palatine tonsil (tonsillectomy). Therefore, we applied a mixture of lidocaine and fibrin glue to the tonsillar fossae immediately after tonsillectomy and evaluated its analgesic effects. **Study Design:** A prospective randomized trial. **Methods:** Seventy-four consecutive patients who had undergone tonsillectomy by the same surgeon (S.K.) were allocated by the sealed envelope method into three groups. After routine tonsillectomy, the operation was terminated in group A (control group), but the bilateral tonsillar fossae were covered with 1 mL fibrin glue using CaCl_2 as solution to dissolve thrombin in group B and using 4% lidocaine chloride instead of CaCl_2 in group C. No significant difference was observed in age or sex among the three groups. Analgesic effects were evaluated in terms of the postoperative days required until the patient began to eat normally and the postoperative days on which the patient desired analgesic administration. **Results:** The mean postoperative days until the patient began to eat normally were 4.22 in group A and 3.78 in group B, showing no significant difference, but 2.83 in group C, being significantly shorter ($P < .05$). The mean postoperative days on which analgesic administration was necessary were 4.56 in group A and 4.91 in group B, showing no significant difference, but 2.88 in group C, being significantly shorter ($P < .05$). **Conclusion:** This method can be readily performed, requires no special treatment, and appears to have adequate pain-relieving effects.