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A double-blind randomized crossover study to evaluate the timing of pregabalin for third molar surgery under local anesthesia

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Abstract

Purpose: This double-blind randomized crossover study compared the analgesic efficacy of pre- and postoperative administration of oral pregabalin 75 mg using a postsurgical dental pain model.

Materials and methods: Patients requiring third molar surgery in 2 separate stages under local anesthesia were recruited. They were given pregabalin 75 mg either 1 hour before or after their first surgical extraction. They then received the same dose of pregabalin at their second surgical extraction, but those who received it before surgery received it postsurgery, and vice versa. Postoperative analgesic effects were assessed at postoperative hours 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 48, and 72. Time to first analgesic, analgesic consumption and adverse events were also evaluated.

Results: Forty patients were recruited, and 34 completed the study. The area under curves for numerical rating scale pain scores 1 to 24 hours were significantly lower at rest but not during mouth opening for patients receiving postoperative pregabalin ($P < .048$). Pain relief was similar for the period of 24 to 72 hours. No significant difference was found in time to first analgesic, total analgesic consumption, and side effects between preoperative and postoperative groups. No difference in the incidence of adverse events was noticed in relation to the timing of pregabalin administration.

Conclusions: Postoperative administration of oral pregabalin 75 mg appears to offer better analgesic efficacy than preoperative administration after third molar surgery under local anesthesia.

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