

1 – DO INTRAOPERATIVE ANALGESICS INFLUENCE LONG TERM SURVIVAL AFTER CANCER LUNG SURGERY?

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OBJECTIVES:

To investigate the effects of intraoperative analgesics on long term survival, we reviewed our series of cancer lung surgery to investigate if the risk of relapse could be linked with the type of analgesia.

BACKGROUND:

Whether intraoperative analgesics have an impact on survival after cancer surgery is unknown. Some investigations suggest that the opioids could favor relapse and that locoregional analgesia and NSAIDs could improve cancer prognosis. This retrospective study of a prospectively computed database included 334 consecutive patients who underwent lobectomy or pneumonectomy for lung cancer. The main objective was to compare the incidence of cancer recurrence between the patients who were treated with different analgesics during surgery. Kaplan-Meier analyses were used to calculate survival probabilities. Cox proportional hazards regression was used for multivariate analysis. A P value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

RESULTS:

Follow-up was 100% complete (median = 69 months). In-hospital mortality was 2.1%. Preoperative characteristics, cancer prognostic factors, and the length of surgery were comparable between groups. Uni- and multivariate analyses showed that pneumonectomy and a higher T stage were associated with a shorter long term survival ($P < 0.05$). A tendency toward longer survival when the patients benefited for an intraoperative epidural analgesia ($P = 0.03$, Wilcoxon test but $P = 0.15$ in multivariate Cox model) and intraoperative ketorolac (respectively $P = 0.09$ and $P = 0.22$). Other analgesics (opioids, ketamine and clonidine) were not associated with a significant difference.

CONCLUSION:

This analysis of a large cohort of cancer lung surgery suggests that intraoperative epidural analgesia could increase the long term survival. Mechanisms, especially on cancer recurrence need to be investigated.

KEYWORDS:

Cancer, analgesics, mortality.

2 – THE NEUROINFORMATICS BELGIAN NODE

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OBJECTIVES:

To develop and promote Neuroinformatics in Belgium.

BACKGROUND:

Neuroinformatics aims at providing dedicated tools from computer science (databases, analysis tools, visualization tools, ...) to Neuroscientists, in order to create an optimal framework for data sharing (storage, retrieval, visualization,...). With a high level of data diversity generated in Neuroscience, the necessity of developing standard tools and theoretical models appears crucial for a better integration of these multi-dimensional data and for further understanding of the brain. The Belgian node, as part of the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility or INCF (www.incf.org), aims at creating a national infrastructure for neuroinformatics, developing national training, participating to the dissemination of information about neuroinformatics development and participating to the development of specific tools for the neuroscience community.

RESULTS:

As local representative of the INCF, the Belgian node is providing a webportal (www.neuroinformatics.be) presenting general neuroinformatics news, a calendar of local and international events (meeting, workshops, courses,...), an open list of the neurosciences Belgian labs and a mailing-list. We are currently organizing neuroinformatics workshop and thus providing national training and international seminars to initiate experimentalists to the use and development of Neuroinformatics tools.

As active part of the global neuroinformatics development, the Belgian node participates to the development of Neuroinformatics standards as member of the MultiScale Modeling program. We are