

Prolongation of post operative analgesia upon addition of Dexamethasone to Etoricoxib (NSAID) administered prior to breast surgery

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Methods

Patients admitted for breast cancer surgery were studied. Patients received Tab. Etoricoxib 90mg per orally 1hr prior to surgery. General anesthesia was induced using Propofol and Fentanyl. Subjects were randomized to receive, in a double blind manner, either by Inj. Dexamethasone 16mg (Group D) or a placebo (saline-Group P). Both study groups were administered 20-30 ml Bupivacaine 0.25% as incisional wound infiltration at the end of surgery. Post operative pain, nausea and vomiting were evaluated in all subjects using a questionnaire in the immediate post operative period, 24 and 72 hrs post surgery.

Results

Group D subjects reported a greater degree of pain relief at 24 and 72hrs post surgery in comparison to placebo group. There was no significant differences between groups in pain, need for rescue analgesics and side effects during the first 4 hrs post operatively.

Conclusion

Addition of i/v Dexamethasone to oral NSAID (Etoricoxib) significantly improves the quality of pain relief in the post surgical period between 24 - 72 hrs.