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The Use of Alfentanil for Minimal Procedural Sedation

Alfentanil is a short acting opioid typically used in pain control. Prior to this study, Alfentanil has not been used as a sedative for minimal procedural sedations such as bone reductions and the drainage of abscesses. That it is a short acting drug, Alfentanil is hypothesized to be a safer drug which keeps the patient awake. The study objectives were to evaluate the rate of respiratory depression, hypoxia, patient perceived recall and pain and the depth of sedation during the procedural sedation. This is a prospective, observational study that will continue for about one more year. During the spring of 2008, I enrolled patients at the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) undergoing various procedures requiring minimal sedation. I recorded vitals during the procedure, end-tidal waveforms and numbers to assess respiratory depression, an Observer's Assessment of Alertness and Sedation number indicating the depth of sedation and followed up after the procedure with the patient to ask questions regarding perceived recall and pain. Initial results indicate low rates of respiratory depression and hypoxia. Patients have also reported low levels of pain and high levels of recall using a visual analog scale. If Alfentanil is found to be a safe, effective drug for minimal sedations, it will likely be used at HCMC and other hospitals. This translates into a safer, alternative drug to use for minimal sedations and ultimately better patient care.



Poster Number: Session: