

Bispectral index-guided dexmedetomidine and midazolam infusion during epidural anesthesia: which provide better patient or surgeon satisfaction?

BACKGROUND: This study aimed to evaluate the patient and surgeon satisfaction with dexmedetomidine or midazolam while titrating the sedation level with the bispectral index (BIS) during epidural anesthesia.

METHODS: The double blind study enrolled eighty consenting ASA class I-II patients who were electively undergoing epidural anesthesia. A random infusion of 4 ug ml(-1) Dexmedetomidine (Group D) or 0.2 mg ml(-1) midazolam (Group M) was administered after mounting a BIS monitor. Infusion rate was adjusted according to the target BIS level (85 ± 5). The day after operation, patient satisfaction was evaluated using Iowa Satisfaction with Anesthesia Scale and surgeon satisfaction was evaluated using visual analogue.

RESULTS: The Iowa Satisfaction with Anesthesia Scale results showed that patients were significantly more satisfied in dexmedetomidine group versus midazolam group (2.2 vs 1.6, $P < 0.05$). The visual analogue showed no significant differences favoring between dexmedetomidine group and midazolam group (3.6 vs 4.0, $P > 0.05$).

CONCLUSIONS: Dexmedetomidine infusion provide better patient satisfaction than midazolam during epidural anesthesia. There were no significant differences in surgeon satisfaction between dexmedetomidine and midazolam.