

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Use of clonidine following the weaning phase of the elderly patients underwent elective on-pump cardiac surgery: a prospective randomized study

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From de Senectute: Age and Health Forum
Catanzaro, Italy. 5-7 December 2009

Background

Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists reduce mortality and myocardial infarction following vascular and cardiac surgery [1]. Few data exist about the weaning phase in this setting.

Materials and methods

Design: Analysis of a prospective and randomized collected database.

Setting: Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in an University Hospital.

Patients: A total of 45 patients aged >65 (26 M, 19 F; ASA II-III) submitted to elective on-pump cardiac surgery from November 2007 to June 2008.

Randomization: On ICU admission the patient was assigned to group 1 (Clonidine, intervention group) or group 2 (Placebo, control group).

Interventions: Group 1 received intravenous (IV) bolus of Clonidine 0.5 microg/kg followed by continuous infusion of 1 – 2 microg/kg/hr all over the weaning protocol phase. Group 2 received IV continuous infusion of Sodium Chloride 0.9% all over the weaning phase.

Data collection: We evaluated hemodynamic parameters, Troponin I (TnI) blood levels, weaning parameters, Delirium Detection Score (DDS), weaning duration and ICU length of stay. The patients were evaluated preoperatively (T0), on ICU admission (T1), after 6 hours (T2) and 30 minutes after the start of weaning protocol (T3).

Results

No differences in preoperative and operative variables ($p=NS$ for all measurements). The incidence of postoperative atrial fibrillation was lower in group 1 ($p<0.001$).

Following the weaning phase, Heart Rate, Mean Pulmonary Arterial Pressure and Pulmonary Arterial Occlusion Pressure were lower in group 1 (respectively $p<0.001$, $p=0.019$ and $p=0.037$). The TnI levels was lower in group 1 ($p=0.05$). The ratio of respiratory rate and tidal volume (RR/TV) and the product of RR and pressure support (RR x PS) were lower in group 1 (both $p<0.001$); the ratio of PaO₂ and FIO₂ (PA/FI) and PaCO₂ were higher in group 1 (respectively $p=0.0035$ and $p<0.001$). DDS was lower in group 1 ($p=0.0028$). Weaning duration and ICU length of stay were similar in the two groups ($p=NS$).

Conclusions

The use of Clonidine in this setting reduce the stress-response during the weaning phase, improving hemodynamic stability and myocardial protection.

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Published: 19 May 2010

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doi:10.1186/1471-2318-10-S1-A97

Cite this article as: Caroleo et al.: Use of clonidine following the weaning phase of the elderly patients underwent elective on-pump cardiac surgery: a prospective randomized study. *BMC Geriatrics* 2010 **10**(Suppl 1):A97.

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