

Propofol Infusion for Sedation During Epidural Anesthesia

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This study investigated the use of propofol given as a continuous infusion for sedation to supplement epidural anesthesia for various kinds of operations in 35 adult patients (ASA I or II). Premedication was only oral benzodiazepine. The desired level of sedation, defined as absence of the eyelash reflex, was achieved with acceptable cardiovascular alterations. The average duration of infusion was 52.9 minutes (SD 19.48) and the recovery was within 10 minutes and quite impressive with eyes open in 2.9 minutes (SD 0.49). The mean rate of infusion was 2.995 mg/kg/hr. (SD 0.325). Pain on injection occurred in 9 patients, it was mild in 4. Only 2 patients remembered the pain postoperatively. No respiratory obstruction, nausea or vomiting occurred. Thirty-two patients described the period of sleep as pleasant. All surgeons, anesthetists and patients satisfied with this technique.