

Comparative study of postoperative analgesia between epidural morphine and systemic narcotics in TAH

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A comparative study of postoperative analgesia between systemic narcotics and combined epidural general anesthesia in TAH (Total abdominal hysterectomy) was done in Ramathibodi Hospital. Eighty Thai patients were divided into two groups; group I received general anesthesia and systemic narcotics while group II received combined epidural and general anesthesia with epidural morphine for postoperative pain. Pain scores were recorded and divided into 2 groups : 0-3 (low pain score) and > 4 (high pain score). Pain scores, side effects, patients' activity and satisfaction assessment were recorded within 48 hours. In the first 24 hours, 6 patients in group I and 28 in group II had low pain score while 34 in I and 12 in II had high pain score. On the second day, 16 in I and 27 in II had low score but 13 in I and 24 in II had high score respectively. The side effects: nausea, vomiting, patients' satisfaction and activity, were not significantly different. There was no respiratory depression but itching was found more in the epidural morphine group. The epidural morphine thus had better postoperative pain relief than systemic narcotics in TAH.