

A Comparison of 29 Gauge Quincks and 27 Gauge Whitacre
Needles for Spinal Anesthesia in Patients Under 45 Years
Vichitrananda C, M.D.,* Sitthichaikasem W, M.D.,*
Pukrittayakamee P, M.D.,* Sornnil A, B.Sc.,* Suranutkarin P, B.Sc.*
* Anesthesiology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi
Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok 10400.

The prospective double blind randomized study was done in 150 patients under 45 years to compare the difficulties in clinical use between 29 G Quincke and 27 G Whitacre needles and postdural puncture complications. All patients received standardized dose of 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine and either 29 G Quincks or 27 G Whitacre spinal needle. The duration of needle insertion, failure of the procedure and the incidence of post dural puncture headache (PDPH) were observed. Result : The duration of needle insertion in 29 G Quincke (90 seconds) is longer than 27 G Whitacre needle (35 seconds) ($p < 0.05$). There was no difference in the failure rate of needle insertion and the incidence of PDPH between two groups.

We concluded that 29 G Quincks was more difficult to use than 27 G Whitacre needle by increasing duration of needle insertion. There was no difference in the post dural puncture complications.

Key words : Spinal anesthesia, Quincke, Whitacre