

**“COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC
LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE
WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS”**

**B.L.D.E.(DU),
SHRI B.M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE,
VIJAYAPUR, KARNATAKA, INDIA**



In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

**DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
IN
ANAESTHESIOLOGY**

**BY
Dr. SINCHANA. A. S M.B.B.S**

**POST GRADUATE IN ANAESTHESIOLOGY
2024**

**Under the guidance of
DR. VIJAYKUMAR T.K MD
PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY**

**DOI 10.5281/zenodo.15501608
<https://zenodo.org/records/15501609>**

BLDE(DU) VIJAYAPUR, KARNATAKA

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled “**COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS**” is a bonafide work carried out by me under the direct supervision and guidance of **DR. VIJAYKUMAR T.K.** M.D, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology Shri B.M. PATIL Medical college, Vijayapura.



Date:

Dr. SINCHANA. A. S

Place: Vijayapura

BLDE (DU) VIJAYAPUR, KARNATAKA

CERTIFICATE BY THE GUIDE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS**” is a bonafied work done by **Dr. SINCHANA. A. S.** under my direct supervision and guidance in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of M.D. (Anaesthesiology).



Date:
Place: Vijayapura

DR. VIJAYKUMAR T.K MD
PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY

BLDE (DU) VIJAYAPUR, KARNATAKA

ENDORSEMENT BY THE HOD

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS**” is a bonafied work done by **Dr. SINCHANA. A. S** under the direct supervision and guidance of **DR. VIJAYKUMAR T.K M.D.**, Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, Shri B. M. PATIL Medical college, Vijayapura.

Date:

Place: Vijayapura



Dr. RENUKA HOLYACHI MD

Professor and HOD
Department of Anesthesiology
Shri B.M. Patil Medical College
Vijayapura.

ENDORSEMENT BY PRINCIPAL

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS**” is a bonafied work done by **Dr. SINCHANA. A. S** under the direct supervision and guidance of **DR. VIJAYKUMAR T.K M.D.**, Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, Shri B. M. Patil Medical college, Vijayapura.

Date:
Place: Vijayapura



Dr. ARAVIND PATIL_{MD}
Principal

Shri B.M. Patil Medical College
Vijayapura.

COPYRIGHT

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I hereby declare that B.L.D.E. (DU) Shri B. M. Patil Medical College, Vijayapura shall have the rights to preserve, use and disseminate this dissertation in print or electronic format for academic / research purpose.

Date:


Dr. SINCHANA. A. S

Place: Vijayapura

© B.L.D.E. (DU) Shri B.M. Patil Medical College, Vijayapura.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On completion of my post-graduation journey and this scientific document, I would like to acknowledge the immense help received from my mentors in the department of Anaesthesiology. With privilege and respect, I would like to express my gratitude and indebtedness to my Guide, Dr. Vijaykumar T.K Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology and for his constant inspiration, extensive encouragement and loving support, which rendered in pursuit of my post-graduate studies and in preparing this dissertation.

I am forever grateful to Dr. RENUKA HOLYACHI, Professor and HOD of Department of Anaesthesiology, Shri B.M Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Vijayapura for her valuable suggestions, support and encouragement throughout the post graduate programme.

I am grateful to all my teachers in Department of Anesthesiology for their guidance, encouragement and inspiration.

I am extremely thankful to Professor Dr. Arvind Patil, Principal, of B.L.D.E.(DU) Shri. B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Vijayapura, for permitting me to utilize resources in completion of my work.

My thanks to one and all staff of Library, Anaesthesia Department and Hospital for their co-operation in my study I am thankful to the members of ethical committee BLDEU 's Shri. B. M. Patil Medical College Hospital and Research Centre Vijayapura for permitting me to carry out this study.

I am thankful to Dr Vijaya for her help in statistical analysis. I also like to thank all my seniors and juniors for their help and co-operation.

I would like to express my deep-felt gratitude to my parents and to my husband for their constant support and encouragement throughout.

Last but not the least; I convey my heartfelt gratitude to all my patients, without whose co-operation, this study would be incomplete.

Dr. SINCHANA. A. S

TABLE OF CONTENTS

S.NO	TOPIC	P.NO
01.	INTRODUCTION	8-9
02.	AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	10-11
03.	REVIEW OF LITERATURE	12-16
04.	TOPICS SPECIFIC TO STUDY	17-48
05.	MATERIALS AND METHOD	48-54
06.	RESULTS	55-70
07.	DISCUSSION	71-73
08.	SUMMARY	74
09.	CONCLUSION	75
10.	BIBIOGRAPHY	76-83
11.	ANNEXURE	
	I: ETHICAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL LETTER	84
	II: PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATE SCREEN SHOT	85
	III: PATIENT CONSENT FORM	86-91
	IV: PROFORMA	92-93
	V: BIODATA OF GUIDES AND INVESTIGATOR	94
	VI: MASTERCHART	95-98

LIST OF FIGURES

SI. NO	FIGURE NAMES	Page No.
1	Number of spinal nerves	18
2	Ligaments in vertebral column	19
3	Anatomy of spinal cord	20
4	Blood supply of spinal cord	21
5	Common tip design for spinal needles	28
6	Lateral decubitus with universal flexion	30
7	Sitting position for spinal anaesthesia	31
8	Prone position for spinal anaesthesia	32
9	Pain pathway	37
10	Local anesthetic mechanism of action	39
11	Chemical structure of bupivacaine	40
12	Chemical structure of levobupivacaine	45
13	Visual analogue scale	54

LIST OF TABLES

SI NO.	Table name	Page no.
1	Comparison of age distribution	56
2	Comparison of onset of sensory block	57
3	Comparison of time to reach T10 in minutes	58
4	Comparison of time to reach T4 in minutes	59
5	Comparison of regression of dermatome	60
6	Comparison of total duration of sensory block	61
7	Comparison of onset of motor block	62
8	Comparison about time to reach maximum level in minutes	63
9	Comparison of duration of analgesia	64
10	Comparison of episodes of hypotension	65
11	Comparison of episodes of bradycardia	66
12	Comparison of episodes of nausea and vomiting	67
13	Comparison of episodes of headache	68
14	Comparison of episodes of itching	69
15	Comparison of shivering	70

LIST OF GRAPHS

SI NO.	Table name	Page no.
1	Comparison of age distribution	56
2	Comparison of onset of sensory block	57
3	Comparison of time to reach T10 in minutes	58
4	Comparison of time to reach T4 in minutes	59
5	Comparison of regression of dermatome	60
6	Comparison of total duration of sensory block	61
7	Comparison of onset of motor block	62
8	Comparison about time to reach maximum level in minutes	63
9	Comparison of duration of analgesia	64
10	Comparison of episodes of hypotension	65
11	Comparison of episodes of bradycardia	66
12	Comparison of episodes of nausea and vomiting	67
13	Comparison of episodes of headache	68
14	Comparison of episodes of itching	69
15	Comparison of shivering	70

ABBREVIATIONS

ASA- American society of anaesthesiologists

CSF- Cerebrospinal fluid

IV- Intravenous

PDPH- Post dural puncture headache

OT- Operation theatre

LA- Local anaesthetics

CNS- Central nervous system

CVS- Cardiovascular system

SD- Standard deviation

ECG- Electrocardiogram

mcg- Microgram

Spo2- Percentage saturation of oxygen

SBP- Systolic blood pressure

DBP- Diastolic blood pressure

ABSTRACT

Background:

Racemic hyperbaric bupivacaine is the most commonly used local anesthetic for spinal anesthesia in women undergoing elective cesarean section. Many studies have been conducted to attain the same level of blockade with different drugs and dosages which offer less adverse effects. The introduction of hyperbaric levobupivacaine, the pure S (–) enantiomer of bupivacaine, has become more prevalent in India due to its lower risks of cardiotoxicity and neurotoxicity, as well as a shorter duration of motor block. In order to increase the analgesic duration without motor block additives are added in elective cesarean delivery.

Nonetheless, there is limited research on its effectiveness in obstetric anesthesia. Therefore, this study aimed to compare the sensory and motor block levels and side effects of equal doses of hyperbaric bupivacaine and levobupivacaine with the addition of intrathecal fentanyl in elective cesarean deliveries.

Materials and Methods:

Following the approval of the College Ethical Committee, 30 parturients with ASA class I-II undergoing elective cesarean sections were enrolled in the study after providing informed consent. They were randomly assigned to either Group BF, receiving 10 mg (2 ml) hyperbaric bupivacaine and 25 mcg (0.5 ml) fentanyl, or Group LF, receiving 10 mg (2 ml) isobaric levobupivacaine and 25 mcg (0.5 ml) fentanyl. Sensory and motor block characteristics were evaluated using pinprick, cold swab, and the Bromage scale; hemodynamic changes and side effects were also recorded. Neonatal outcomes were assessed with the APGAR score at 1 and 5 minutes.

Results:

Hemodynamic parameters like mean arterial pressure of Group BF were found to be lower. Group BF exhibited maximum motor block level with longer duration of analgesia. Whereas, in Group LF, shorter sensorial and motor block scores were seen with lesser side effects. Hemodynamic stability is similar in both the groups with no effects on neonate.

Conclusion:

The combination of intrathecal hyperbaric levobupivacaine and fentanyl is a viable alternative to the hyperbaric bupivacaine-fentanyl combination in cesarean surgeries, as it is less effective in producing motor block while maintaining hemodynamic stability at higher sensory block levels.

Key words: Cesarean sections, hyperbaric bupivacaine, hyperbaric levobupivacaine, fentanyl.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION:

Administering local anesthetics via the spinal route is favored for cesarean sections as it provides analgesia, anesthesia, and motor block. The effects are influenced by the volume, concentration, and dosage of the drug¹. Racemic bupivacaine is the most frequently utilized local anesthetic for spinal anesthesia in women undergoing cesarean sections.

Hyperbaric solutions tend to produce cephalad spread which causes cardiothoracic fibers block leading to sudden bradycardia and arrest. They can also cause hemodynamic instability and bradycardia. Bupivacaine has a few adverse effects like cardiotoxicity and neurotoxicity. Levobupivacaine is the pure S enantiomer of bupivacaine and can be used in place of bupivacaine due to its lower cardiotoxicity and neurotoxicity. It also provides extended advantages because of its predictable spread after spinal anesthesia.

Incorporating low doses of opioids with local anesthetics during spinal anesthesia reduces the side effects associated with local anesthetics and prolongs their duration of action. It provides intra op and post op analgesia. Fentanyl can be added as it increases the duration of action and also spread of sensory blocks². It also helps by reducing the dose of local anesthetic, thus reducing its side effects.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to evaluate the sensory and motor block levels, along with the side effects resulting from equal doses of hyperbaric solutions of bupivacaine and levobupivacaine, when combined with intrathecal fentanyl, in elective cesarean sections.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

AIM:

Our aim is to assess the effectiveness of using low-dose local anesthetics combined with an opioid in order to minimize the side effects typically associated with these local anesthetics.

OBJECTIVE:

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

- To evaluate and compare the sensory and motor block characteristics, as well as hemodynamic changes, of hyperbaric bupivacaine and levobupivacaine.
- To determine the duration of the block when fentanyl is added.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate side effects such as cardiotoxicity and neurotoxicity associated with bupivacaine and levobupivacaine.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- **Gulen Guler *et al*** evaluated the effectiveness of levobupivacaine and hyperbaric bupivacaine for spinal anesthesia in cesarean sections, noting that levobupivacaine presents a lower risk of cardiotoxicity and neurotoxicity. They divided 60 patients into two groups: one receiving hyperbaric bupivacaine and the other receiving isobaric levobupivacaine, with 25 mcg of fentanyl added to both groups. They found that levobupivacaine combined with fentanyl could be an excellent alternative to bupivacaine for elective cesarean sections due to a shorter motor block time and fewer side effects such as hypotension, bradycardia, and nausea³.
- **Ak Singh *et al*** aimed to assess the efficacy and safety of isobaric levobupivacaine versus hyperbaric bupivacaine in lower limb orthopedic surgeries. The prospective, double-blinded cross-sectional study included 70 patients and compared the two anesthetics, finding that while bupivacaine had a faster onset of action, levobupivacaine resulted in a shorter duration of motor blockade⁴.

- **Z, Kazak *et al*** sought to determine the effectiveness of perianal or saddle block using two different doses of hyperbaric levobupivacaine by evaluating reliability, anesthesia satisfaction, voiding time, and hospital stay in anal surgery with spinal anesthesia. In this double-blinded prospective study involving 78 patients aged 30 to 75 years, hyperbaric levobupivacaine was found to cause less motor blockade and faster dermatome regression, facilitating early ambulation and a shorter hospital stay, which is advantageous for outpatient surgery⁵.

- **J.F Luck *et al*** conducted a study in 60 patients, and compared the clinical characteristics of 'hyperbaric' bupivacaine with their isomers levobupivacaine and ropivacaine⁶ in spinal anesthesia. They found no significant differences between the three drugs, except that ropivacaine demonstrated more reliable action and a shorter duration of motor blockade.

- **Akcaboy *EY et al***, evaluated the clinical effectiveness and quality of block of low-dose levobupivacaine against the low-dose bupivacaine when both were combined with fentanyl in transurethral resection of the prostate surgery⁷.

- Capelleri et al, aimed to compare the unilateral spinal block produced by small doses of hyperbaric ropivacaine with hyperbaric levobupivacaine in 91 ASA I-II patients undergoing knee arthroscopy. Both groups provided adequate analgesia, but ropivacaine resulted in a shorter motor blockade, facilitating early discharge⁸.

- M Mantouvalou et al, did a comparative study of the anesthetic efficacy and safety of three local anesthetic agents: racemic bupivacaine and its two isomers, ropivacaine and levobupivacaine, in patients undergoing lower abdominal surgery. The study concluded that the ropivacaine was the fastest-acting isomer and that bupivacaine required more use of vasoactive drugs compared to ropivacaine and levobupivacaine⁹.

- Deori et al, compared the clinical effects (sensory block, motor block, hemodynamic effects, Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes, and adverse effects if any) of intrathecal 2.5 ml 0.5% isobaric levobupivacaine with 2.5 ml 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine for spinal anesthesia in lower segment cesarean sections. The study concluded that isobaric levobupivacaine provided better hemodynamic stability and faster mobility¹⁰.

- ***Valery Piacherski et al***, compared the clinical efficacy of spinal anesthesia using 0.5% isobaric bupivacaine, 0.5% isobaric levobupivacaine, and 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine¹¹⁻¹². They found that levobupivacaine had the slowest development of sensory and motor block, while isobaric bupivacaine and levobupivacaine provided the longest postoperative analgesia¹¹.

- ***Goel S et al***, emphasized that the most often used local anesthetic in day care procedures is bupivacaine, and that higher intrathecal bupivacaine dosages might cause a greater degree of sensory and motor block, which can cause arterial hypotension and postpone hospital discharge. The minimal effective intrathecal fentanyl dose that, in conjunction with low-dose intrathecal bupivacaine, can provide sufficient surgical conditions without causing a prolonged recovery period was also assessed. They concluded that fentanyl 12.5 µg added to low-dose bupivacaine provided better surgical anesthesia with early mobility¹².

- ***HC Coppejans et al***, aimed to compare bupivacaine with newer local anesthetics in equipotent doses combined with opioids for epidural and spinal anesthesia in elective cesarean sections. The research verified that the more recent local anesthetics may be used effectively and result in less motor blockage. Even yet, ropivacaine needed a dosage that was at least 50% more than that of bupivacaine or levobupivacaine¹³.

- *Gunusen et al*, identified levobupivacaine as the most commonly recommended local anesthetic for elective cesarean sections. The study looked at the block's properties, clinical effectiveness, the surgeon and patient's level of satisfaction, and the hemodynamic effects of various intrathecal plain levobupivacaine doses mixed with fentanyl, which prolongs parturients analgesia¹⁴.

- *Huang YF et al*, did a comparison of the cardiovascular and central nervous system toxicity of levobupivacaine and bupivacaine among the sheep. They observed that levobupivacaine is less cardiotoxic, offering a greater safety profile¹⁵.

- *Casimiro et al*, examined the anesthetic epidural effects of levobupivacaine plus fentanyl against bupivacaine plus fentanyl in patients having lower limb surgery. They found no significant difference between the two groups, but the levobupivacaine group experienced a shorter duration of motor blockade¹⁶.

CLINICAL ANATOMY

SPINAL ANAESTHESIA

Definition

Spinal anesthesia involves injecting a local anesthetic into the subarachnoid space, temporarily interrupting nerve transmission¹⁷.

History

The term "spinal anesthesia" was coined by Leonard Corning in 1885 during his experiments with cocaine to address neurological issues¹⁸. His initial trials, beginning with a dog, resulted in temporary hind limb paralysis. Later, he administered the anesthesia to a human subject, initially with no effect, but successfully achieving numbness on a subsequent attempt. Corning's early work suggested the dog received spinal anesthesia, while the human likely received an epidural.

August Bier introduced modern spinal anesthesia in 1899 when his assistant¹⁹, Dr. Hildebrandt, underwent a lumbar puncture. Despite initial difficulties, they persisted, and within 23 minutes of injection, observed complete sensory and motor block²⁰.

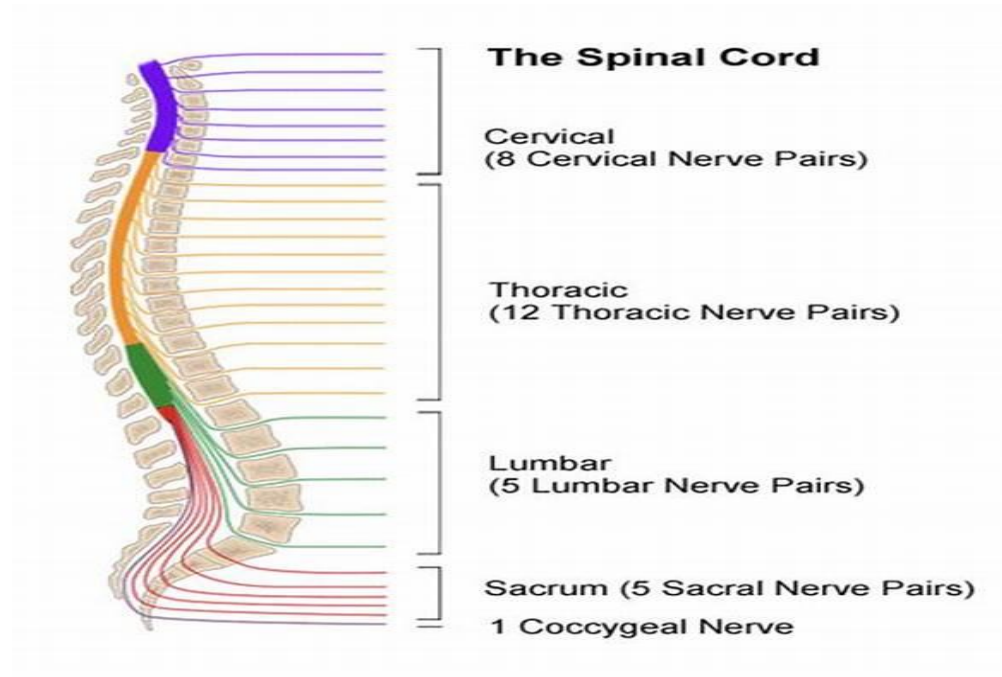
Anatomy

The spine consists of vertebral bones and fibrocartilaginous intervertebral discs, providing structural support and protecting the spinal cord and nerves. Each vertebral level has pairs of spinal nerves.

The spine forms a double C shape, convex anteriorly in the cervical and lumbar regions. Vertebrae are connected by fibrocartilaginous joints anteriorly and zygapophyseal joints posteriorly, with the central disc containing the nucleus pulposus²¹.

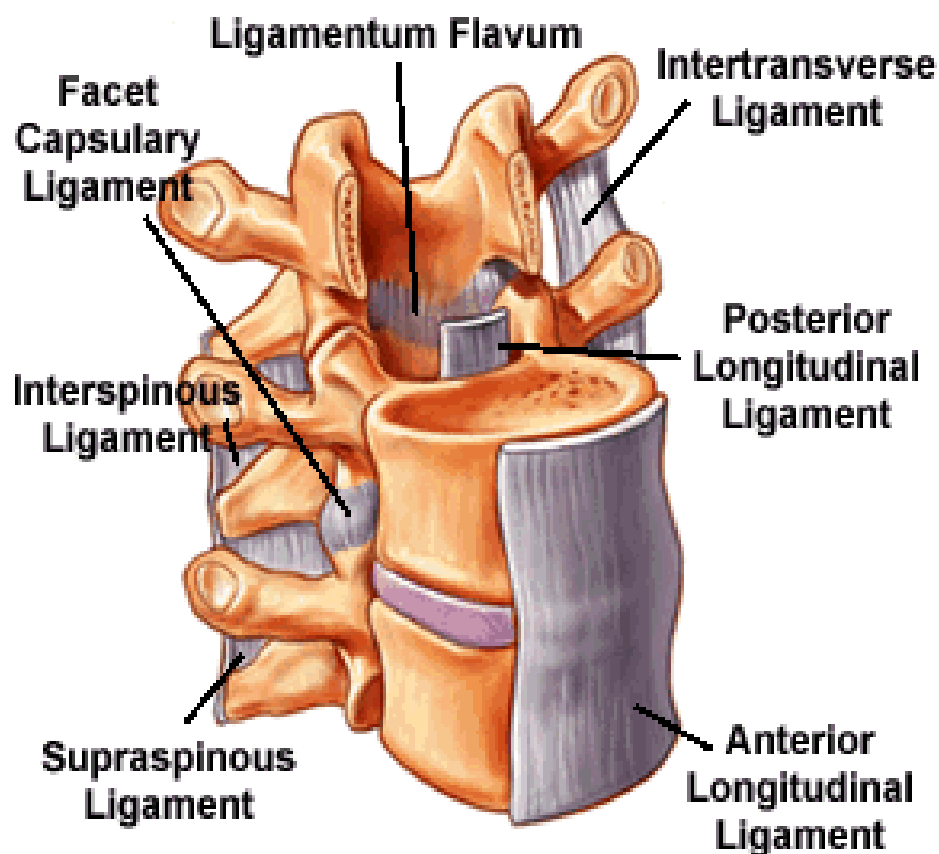
Notably, the thoracic spine has steeply angled spinous processes compared to the horizontal angulation of the lumbar spine, crucial for needle insertion.

Figure number 1: Number of spinal nerves



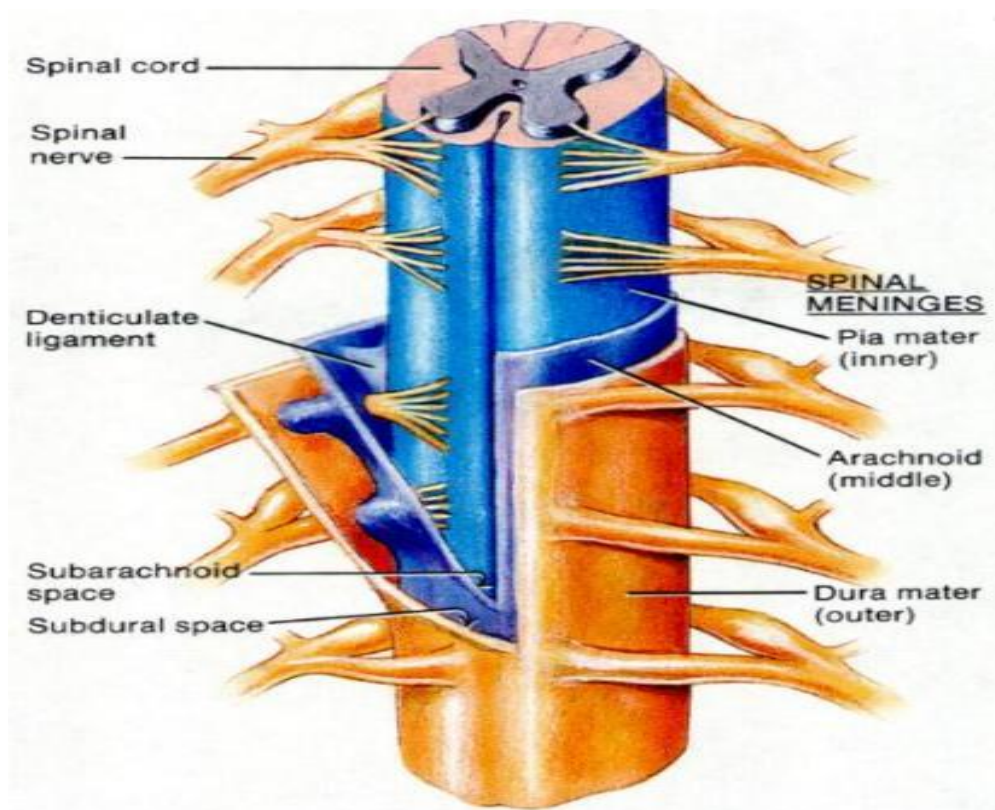
While the ligamentum flavum, interspinous ligament, and supraspinous²² ligament give dorsal stability, the anterior and posterior longitudinal ligaments provide ventral support. The needle goes through these dorsal ligaments as well as the gaps between the next vertebrae's spinous processes and bony lamina when using a midline approach.

Figure Number 2: Ligaments in vertebral column



The spinal canal houses the spinal cord, its coverings (pia mater, arachnoid mater, and dura mater), fatty tissue, and a venous plexus. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) resides in the subarachnoid space.

Figure 3: Anatomy of spinal cord



Spinal cord

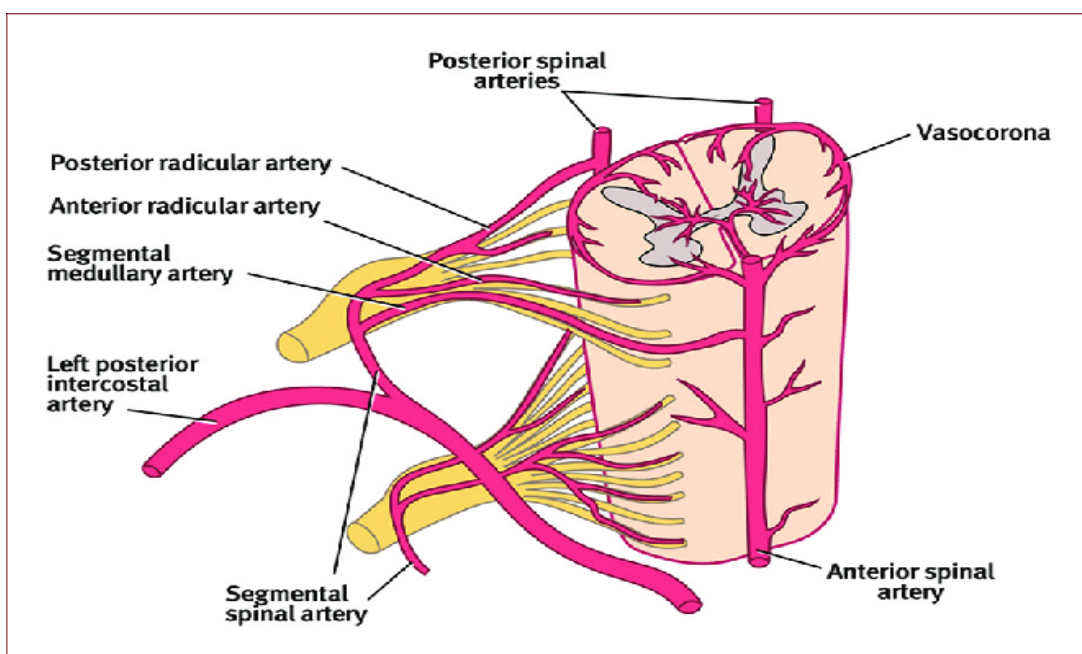
In adults, the spinal cord extends from the foramen magnum to the level of L1, and in infants, to the level of L3. The spinal cord terminates at conus medullaris, continued by filum terminale (fibrous extension) and cauda equina (neural extension).

Blood supply

1. **Anterior spinal artery** originating from the vertebral artery, supplies anterior $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the spinal cord.
2. **Posterior spinal artery** originating from the posterior inferior cerebellar artery, supplies posterior $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the spinal cord.
3. **Segmental arteries** originate from intercostal and lumbar arteries.
4. **Artery of Adamkiewicz**²³ is one major branch variably entering between T7 and L4 on the left side and supply anterior $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the spinal cord in lower thoracic and lumbar regions.

These arteries enter the spinal canal through each intervertebral foramen, where they branch out to supply the nerve roots and the spinal cord with medullary branches.²⁴.

Figure number 4: Blood supply of spinal cord



Mechanism of action

When injected intrathecally local anesthetics primarily bind to the spinal nerve roots and peripheral spinal cord regions. Rostral spread occurs via arterial pulsations from the skull, with lesser amounts reaching the central spinal cord region. Blockade of efferent motor and autonomic transmission results from anterior nerve fiber blockage, while somatic and visceral impulses are blocked by posterior nerve fiber blockade²⁵.

Somatic blockade

Spinal anesthesia achieves dense sensory and motor block with minimal anesthetic dose and volume. Smaller sympathetic fibers are more susceptible to blockade compared to larger sensory and motor fibers. Factors influencing drug penetration and uptake include drug mass, concentration of drug in CSF, the contact surface area, content of lipid, vascular supply of the local tissue, and size of the nerve root ²⁵.

Clinical progression of differential nerve block in order is –

1. Autonomic fibres – sympathetic blockade occurs at two to six segments higher than the sensory block
2. Sensory fibres – cold > warm > pinprick > pain > touch > pressure
3. Motor fibres – two to three segments below the sensory block is when the motor block happens.

Differential nerve block depends on the following factors:

- Fiber arrangement in the nerve bundle
- Fiber diameter
- Inherent nerve fiber activity
- Variability in agent spread,
- Effects on ion channels other than Na⁺
- The specific local anesthetic drug used.

Autonomic blockade:

Spinal anesthesia predominantly blocks sympathetic and to a lesser extent, parasympathetic efferent transmission. Thoracolumbar is the sympathetic outflow; craniosacral is the parasympathetic outflow. Nonetheless, the neuraxial aneesthesia has no effect on the vagus nerve²⁵.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Cardiovascular system:

Physiological effects of the spinal anesthesia resemble those induced by a combination of alpha 1 and beta-adrenergic receptor actions. Activation of beta 2 receptors leads to vasodilation, causing peripheral blood pooling and reduced venous return. This reduction in venous return subsequently decreases cardiac output. Sympathectomy predominantly induces venodilation due to the limited presence of smooth muscle in venules²⁶.

The primary causes of hypotension following spinal anesthesia are decreased cardiac output and systemic vascular resistance. Bradycardia may occur due to reduced right atrial filling or involvement of cardioaccelerator fibers from T1 to T4.

In case of hypotension –

- Trendelenburg position and leg elevation
- Oxygen supplementation
- Crystalloids and colloids administration
- Vasopressors like ephedrine, phenylephrine
- Atropine for bradycardia

Respiratory effects:

In healthy patients, pulmonary function remains largely unchanged with neuraxial blockade. Spinal anesthesia at mid-thoracic levels (without affecting the phrenic nerve) results in minimal or no alteration in tidal volume, respiratory rate, minute ventilation, or arterial blood gases²⁷. Hemodynamic resuscitation can relieve apnea even in cases of complete spinal anesthesia, indicating that the reason may be brain stem hypoperfusion rather than phrenic nerve block.

However, caution is warranted when using neuraxial blocks in patients with respiratory compromise, as paralysis of respiratory muscles can impair effective coughing and secretion clearance²⁰, particularly affecting expiratory muscles.

Gastrointestinal effects:

Spinal anesthesia induces sympathetic blockade, leading to increased parasympathetic activity and subsequent gastrointestinal hyperperistalsis. This may cause patients to experience nausea and vomiting.

Hepatic blood flow decreases with reductions in mean arterial pressure resulting from any anesthesia technique²⁸.

Renal function:

Neuraxial blockade accompanies a decrease in renal blood flow, though the decline is not clinically significant. When perioperative urinary catheterization is unnecessary, it is advisable to use the smallest effective dose of short-acting drugs required for the surgical procedure and to limit intravenous fluid administration. Monitoring for urinary retention is essential postoperatively to prevent bladder distension following spinal anesthesia²¹.

Central nervous system effects:

In neuraxial blockade there is reduced coronary blood flow, increased cerebral vascular resistance which reduces cerebral perfusion. no significant changes observed.

Metabolic and endocrine effects:

Surgery induces a neuroendocrine response characterized by the release of various substances. Neuraxial blocks effectively attenuate this response by reducing catecholamine release, potentially decreasing perioperative arrhythmias and ischemic events.

TECHNIQUE

Preparation:

- Explain the procedure to patient in brief
- Secure IV cannula with a large bore needle(20G/18G)
- Standard monitors to be attached
- Resuscitation equipment should be kept ready

Equipment

A standard spinal needle comprises a hub, a shaft terminating in a tip, and often includes a stylet.

The typical shaft length of a spinal needle is 9cm.

Various spinal needles are available, which can be classified according to:

i. Size of the needle –

Sizes are available from 18 to 30G. Large gauge spinal needles improves tactile sensation of needle placement, whereas complications related to CSF leaks and post dural puncture headache are less with finer needles.

ii. Shape of spinal needle tip –

1. Dura cutting needles
2. Dura splitting needles

Dura cutting needles-

These needles are bevelled tips with cutting edges

Cuts longitudinally aligned dural fibres

It causes more CSF loss and more likely to cause PDPH

Examples: Quincke, Atraucan, Greene.

Dura splitting needles-

These are also called as pencil point tip needles.

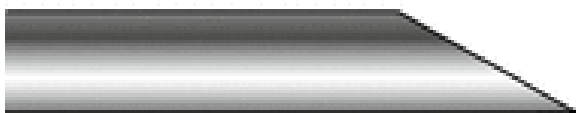
The aperture is on the side of the shaft and require more time to insert.

Less amount of tissue coring and less likely to cause PDPH.

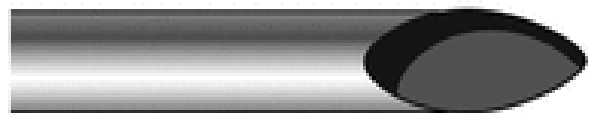
Examples: Whitacre, Sprotte, Eldor

Figure number 5: Common tip designs for spinal needles

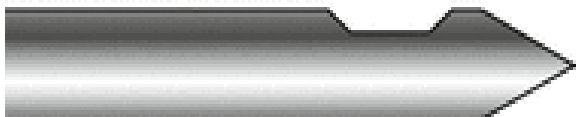
Quincke



(Cutting)



Whitacre



(Pencil point)



Sprotte



(Pencil point)



1. Drug Factors

Mechanism of drug spread:

There are several factors which contribute to the level of block after a spinal anaesthesia. They are

Characteristics of the injected solution:

1. Baricity:

Baricity refers to the density of local anesthetic solution relative to the density of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), which is approximately 1.00059 g/liter.

Solutions are classified based on their density:

- Hypobaric – density < 1
- Isobaric – density = 1
- Hyperbaric – density >1, Hyperbaric drug spread is more predictable hence it is made hyperbaric by adding dextrose.
- Gravity significantly influences the spread of hyper- and hypobaric solutions.

2. Volume, dose and concentration:

- These factors are interconnected, with dose being the most critical determinant of local anesthetic spread²⁹.
- Volume * concentration = dose

3. Addition of other drugs:

- Vasoconstrictors – Vasoconstrictors prolong the duration of action by reducing systemic absorption, thereby enhancing the retention of the drug in the subarachnoid space³⁰.
- Opioids – Opioids, when added to local anesthetics, exert a synergistic effect without affecting motor blockade.

2. Patient factors

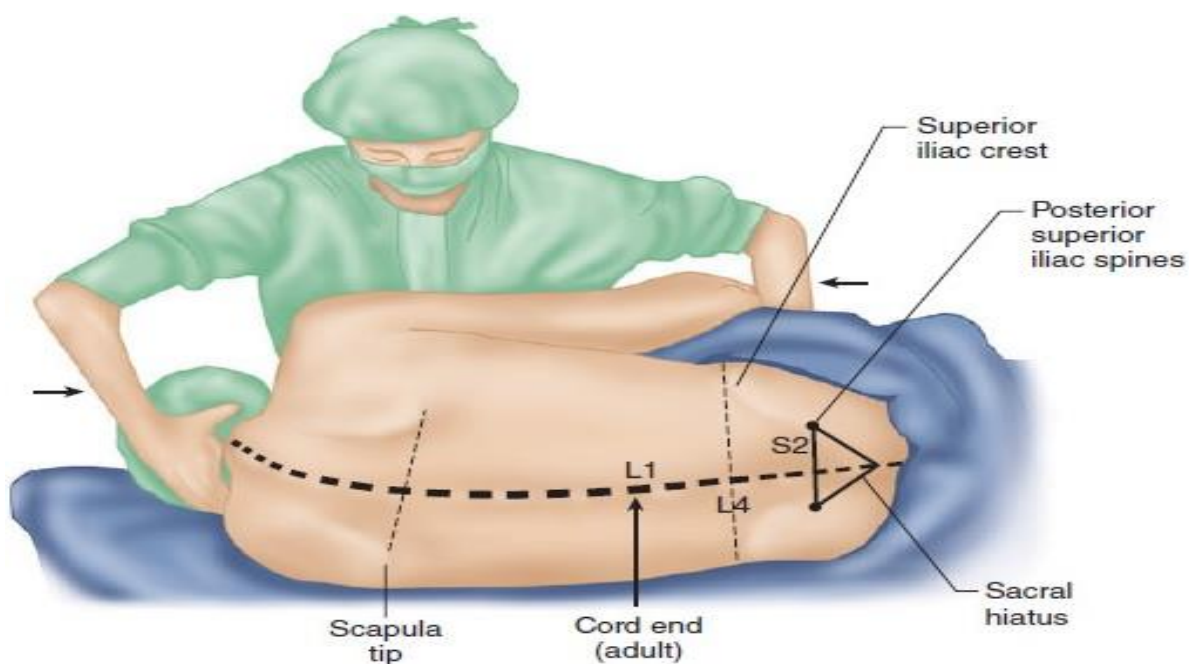
- ❖ **Age** – Advancing age correlates with reduced conduction velocity, axonal degeneration, fewer nerve fibers, and diminished CSF volume. Consequently, elderly patients require lower doses as the block height increases.
- ❖ **Height** – Height influences anesthesia spread, especially in cases of extreme variation.
- ❖ **Weight** – BMI affects anesthesia distribution; obese patients may experience increased spread due to reduced volume of CSF.
- ❖ **Position** –

1. Lateral decubitus with universal flexion:

Patient should be positioned with their back parallel to the OT table axis, thighs flexed upward, and neck forward (fetal position).

Head high/head low positioning can be utilized to leverage the baricity of spinal local anesthetics³¹.

Figure number 6: Lateral decubitus with universal flexion

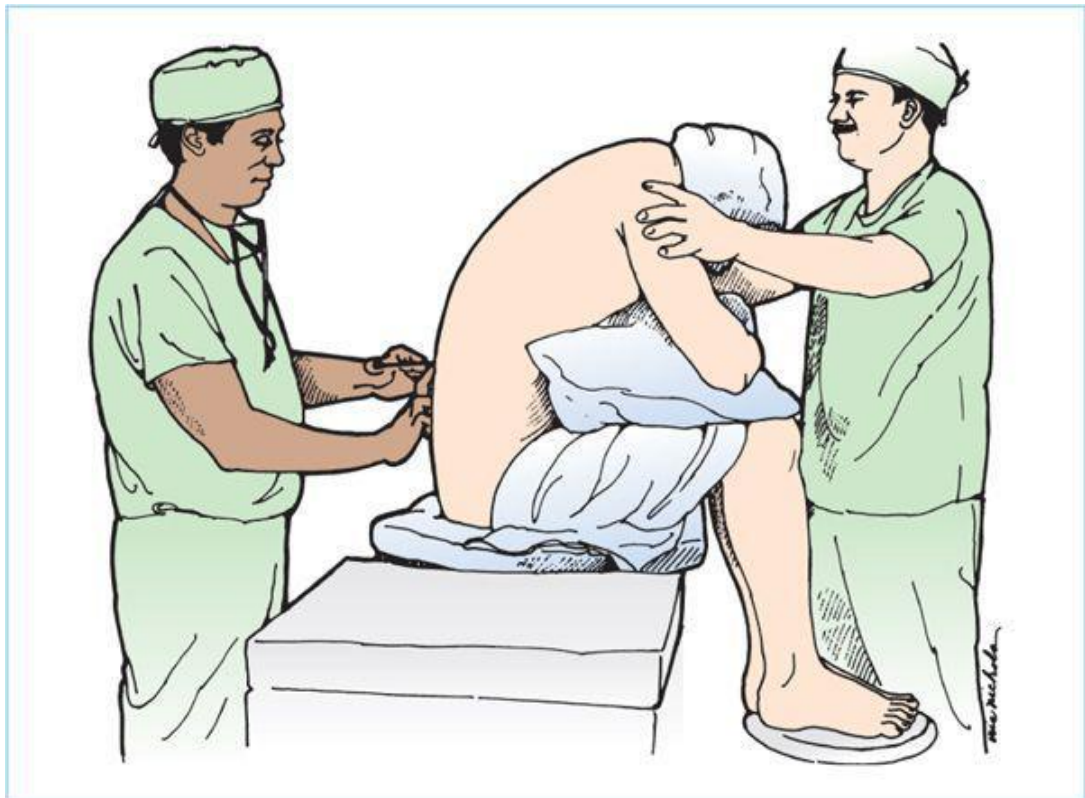


2. Sitting position:

The patient sits upright, back parallel to the OT table axis, feet supported, head flexed, arms supporting a pillow over the chest, and arching their back (C-shaped position).

This maximizes intervertebral space opening³².

Figure number 7: Sitting position for spinal anesthesia



3. Prone position:

The prone position is used when the patient will be in this position for the surgical procedure (rectal, perineal and lumbar procedures).

Hypobaric LAs are administered. Patient positions self, lumbar lordosis has to be minimized, a paramedian approach is often used³³.

Figure number 8: Prone position for spinal anesthesia



3.Procedures factors

1. Patient position:

The baricity of the local anesthetic drug and the patient's posture both affect the degree of block. Whereas hypobaric solutions tend to ascend, hyperbaric solutions tend to settle downward.

2. The injection level:

A larger spread is obtained by injecting with the plain solutions at higher levels.

3. Type of needle:

Use of directional needles can influence the spread of anesthesia based on the direction of the needle aperture.

4. Technique of injection:

This technique involves repeated aspiration of CSF and reinjection of the local anesthetic.

Rate of injection:

Rapid injections result in marked diffusion, leading to higher levels of blocks.

5. Characteristics of spinal fluid:

Factors such as volume, density, and pressure of CSF play a role in anaesthesia spread.

4. Projection and puncture

After ensuring the patient is correctly positioned, it is crucial to follow strict aseptic procedures. Betadine, a povidone-iodine solution, should be used to clean the back. Let it sit on the skin for at least two minutes, then wipe it off with dry gauze and cover it. Drawn between the iliac crests' greatest points, Tuffier's line typically corresponds to either the L4-L5 interspace or the L4 vertebral body. The subarachnoid space can be accessed in two ways:

▪ Midline approach-

- Advantages include an anatomically straightforward projection and a relatively avascular plane.
- The spinal needle is inserted midline, at a 15-20 degree cephalad angle, with the bevel parallel to the dura's longitudinal fibers, after local infiltration with 2% lignocaine.
- The dorsal to ventral structures that are punctured are the dura, supraspinous ligament, interspinous ligament, and skin.
- Upon passing through the ligamentum flavum and dura, there are noticeable "giveaways" or pops. The needle is placed in the subarachnoid space following the second giveaway. Following placement confirmation via CSF aspiration, 0.2 ml/s of local anesthetic is given.

▪ Paramedian approach-

- This approach avoids anatomical limitations imposed by the spinous process by placing the needle laterally.
- Aim for the midline 1 cm from the spinal needle, 10-15 degrees off the sagittal plane, in line with the mid space. As development proceeds, the dura gives way characteristically and CSF is acquired.

Contraindications of spinal anaesthesia:

Absolute

- Significant coagulopathy
- Localized sepsis
- Raised intracranial pressure
- Severe untreated hypovolemia
- Valvular heart diseases- fixed output lesions/stenotic lesions
- Septic shock
- Severe anemia
- Arachnoiditis, meningitis

Relative

- Neurological deficits and demyelinating diseases
- Spinal deformities
- Sepsis
- Thromboprophylaxis
- Inherited coagulopathy

PHYSIOLOGY OF PAIN

Pain can be acute or chronic. It can be a result of any injury, underlying morbidity, abnormal function of any organ. Long standing disease usually cause chronic pain. The visceral pain which is experienced at a location away from its actual site is called as referred pain due to the same embryological origin.

Pain has four components-

- Sensory-conscious perception
- Motor- withdrawal reflex
- Autonomic-tachycardia, perspiration
- Affective-anger

Changes in each organ system due to pain are-

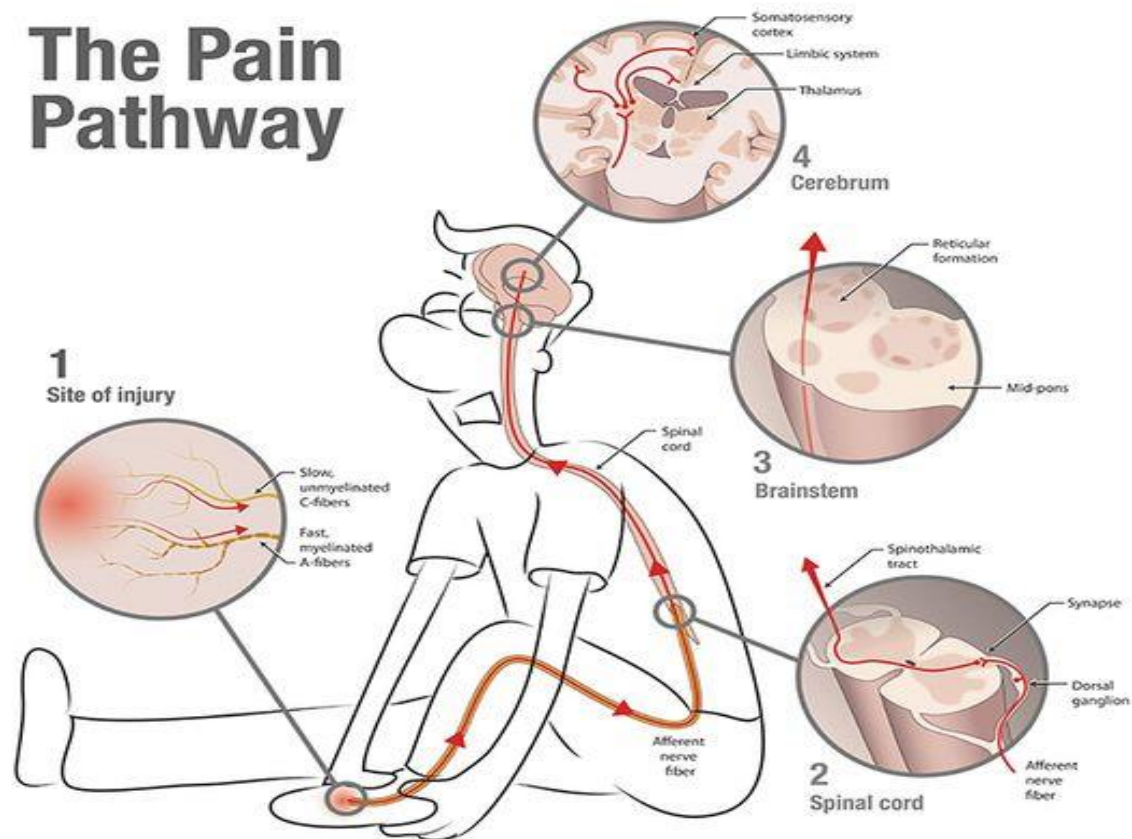
- Heart-tachycardia, hypertension, arrhythmias
- Lungs-oxygen consumption is increased, increase in respiratory rate
- Blood-thrombosis
- Gut-decreased gut motility, ulceration, urinary retention
- Endocrine-increased catecholamines
- Immunology-increased total count
- Psychology-anger, anxiety, decreased sleep

GATE THEORY

Ronald Melzack and Patrick wall, explained this theory. Here, the pain stimulus is not experienced if there is simultaneous stimulation by inhibitory impulses as well.

Pain is delivered by A-delta and C fibers. A-beta fibres can override the pain stimulus by delivering information about touch and pressure simultaneously. Brain can decrease the pain intensity by activating endogenous pain suppression pathways. Neurotransmitters involved are serotonin and enkephalin.

Figure number 9: Pain pathway



LOCAL ANAESTHETICS

Karl Coller introduced Cocaine in 1884, the first used local anaesthetic. These drugs cause reversible nerve blockages and decreases nerve sensation. They are used to decrease perioperative stress, for early recovery and to treat dysrhythmias.

The resting membrane potential of a nerve fibre is -60 to -70 mv. The main action of these drugs is by inhibiting voltage gated sodium channels, thereby preventing the influx of sodium through these channels. This delays the depolarization causing no action potential. Small diameter nerves are blocked before large diameter nerves. Myelinated nerves are more sensitive than the non-myelinated nerves. The Minimum Effective Concentration (C_m) is the lowest quantity of local anaesthetic required to block the nerves impulses.

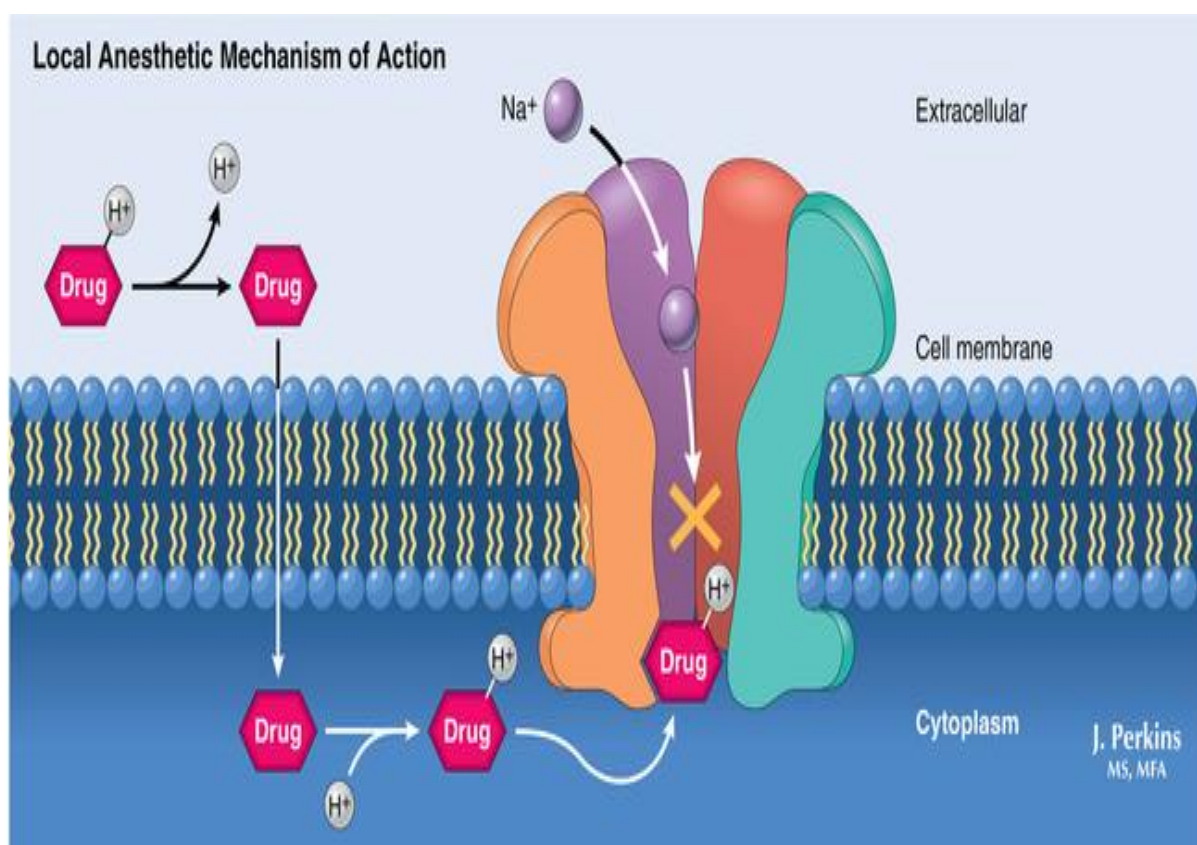
Sodium channels have alpha and the beta subunits. They exist in three stages open, closed, resting. Drugs bind the channels when they are in open state.

More the depolarization, more the probability of sodium channel blockade by the local anaesthetics. This is called as frequency or use dependent blockade. Motor fibres have twice the ' C_m ' as that of sensory fibres. The A fibres and C fibres vary in diameter. The similar concentrations of local anaesthetics block both of them.

The structure of the local anaesthetics contains two groups. A lipophilic group and a hydrophilic group. These two groups are linked by an ester or amide linkage. Depending upon this link they are classified as esters and amides. Pseudocholesterase enzyme metabolizes esters and amides by the liver.

pKa is the pH at which there are equal amounts of unionized and ionized molecules. The drugs having low lipid solubility and less potency act faster. Addition of sodium bicarbonate makes the drug more alkaline, making the onset faster.

Figure number 10: Local anesthetic mechanism of action



PHARMACOLOGY OF BUPIVACAINE

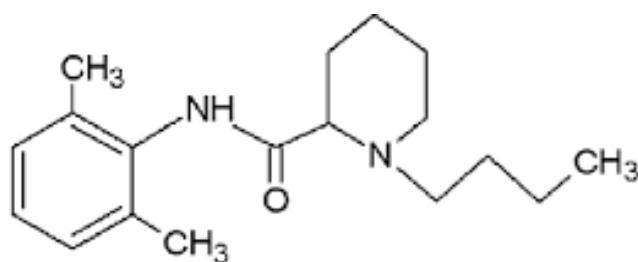
History

It is a widely used local anaesthetic drug, first synthesized by Ekenstam in 1957. It was used clinically by LJ Telivuo in 1963.

It is longacting amide type local anaesthetic chemically related to lignocaine and mepivacaine. It has two groups namely, an aromatic ring attached to a tertiary amine by an amide link. The aromatic ring gives lipophilic character. It is four times more potent than lignocaine.

The pKa value at 25degree celcius is 8.1, at physiological pH of 7.4, 15% is in unionized form and 85% is ionized.

Figure number 11: Chemical structure of bupivacaine



Pharmacokinetics:**Absorption**

- The uptake of bupivacaine from its site of injection depends on-
- The drug concentration
- Volume of the drug
- Vascularity of the area
- Route of administration of the drug

Distribution

Bupivacaine is distributed throughout all body tissues, with varying concentrations in different organs; highly perfused organs exhibit higher concentrations compared to less perfused ones. It is rapidly cleared by lung tissue, causing a marked decrease in blood concentration as it passes through the pulmonary vasculature. The terminal half-life is approximately 30 minutes, and the steady-state volume of distribution is 72 liters.

Metabolism and excretion

Bupivacaine undergoes enzymatic degradation primarily in the liver. The main metabolic pathway involves N-dealkylation to pipecoloxylidine. Additional metabolites include N-desbutyl bupivacaine and hydroxy bupivacaine.

Approximately 5% is excreted as pipecoloxylidine in urine, and 16% is excreted unchanged in urine. Clearance is approximately 7 ml/kg/min. Bupivacaine exhibits high plasma protein binding, predominantly to alpha-1 acid glycoprotein, with a binding capacity of 95%.

Pharmacological actions

Bupivacaine was the first local anesthetic noted for intermediate speed of onset of action with a long duration of action, and profound conduction block, with a significant separation between sensory and motor blockade.

Onset of action-

The onset of action is determined by pKa of individual agents since unionized form of local anaesthetic is responsible for diffusion across the nerve membranes. The amount of bupivacaine present in the unionized form is inversely proportional to its pKa. Hence bupivacaine has intermediate position in terms of pKa and latency of blockade. In vivo latency is also dependent on the concentration of drug used. 0.25% bupivacaine has slow onset of action but increasing to 0.75% results in increased anaesthetic effect.

Duration of action-

Duration of action is related to degree of protein binding because conduction blockade is believed to occur after the interaction with protein receptor within its protein receptor within the sodium channel. Compounds which have a greater affinity and bind more firmly to the receptor cause prolonged duration of block. Bupivacaine is removed extremely slow from the isolated nerves hence it has prolonged duration of action.

SYSTEMIC EFFECTS

Maximum dose of bupivacaine is 3mg/kg. It produces systemic effects after absorption. The rate and extent of absorption depends on dose, site of injection, volume and physiochemical properties of the drug. Bupivacaine is lipid soluble, more potent with less systemic absorption.

Central nervous system:

Bupivacaine crosses the blood-brain barrier, and systemic absorption or direct intravascular injection can lead to CNS toxicity. Dose-dependent effects include light-headedness, tinnitus, circumoral numbness, tongue paresthesia, seizures, unconsciousness, coma, respiratory arrest, and cardiovascular depression. In comparison to lidocaine (7.1), bupivacaine (3.5) has a reduced ratio of cardiovascular collapse (CC) to CNS toxicity (CC/CNS).

Cardiovascular system:

Bupivacaine depresses myocardial automaticity, shortens the refractory period, and reduces myocardial contractility and conduction velocity at higher concentrations. These effects are primarily due to direct blockade of cardiac Na⁺ channels and inhibition of the autonomic nervous system. Bradycardia, heart block, and hypotension may lead to cardiac arrest. High protein binding of bupivacaine complicates resuscitation efforts, especially in cases of pregnancy, respiratory acidosis, and hypoxemia.

Respiratory system:

Bupivacaine decreases the hypoxic drive. Apnea may result from phrenic nerve or intercostal nerve paralysis or by the depression of medullary respiratory center.

Hematological system:

Bupivacaine decreases coagulation, decreases platelet aggregation, enhances fibrinolysis and prevents thrombosis. Embolic events are reduced in patients receiving epidural bupivacaine.

ADVERSE EFFECTS:

Bupivacaine is relatively free of adverse effects when administered in appropriate doses. However systemic toxicity may occur when injected intravascularly or in large doses.

Toxicity:

CNS: Circumoral numbness, parasthesia, dizziness, tinnitus, blurred vision, followed by CNS excitatory features like restlessness, agitation, tonic clonic seizures, followed by CNS depression like drowsiness, unconsciousness, coma, respiratory arrest.

CVS: Hypotension, AV block, dysrhythmia such as ventricular fibrillation, cardiac arrest.

Allergic reactions: Very rare. The preservative methylparaben may be responsible for the allergic reactions.

Musculoskeletal: Bupivacaine is myotoxic and can cause cystic degeneration, oedema and necrosis on direct injection in skeletal muscle.

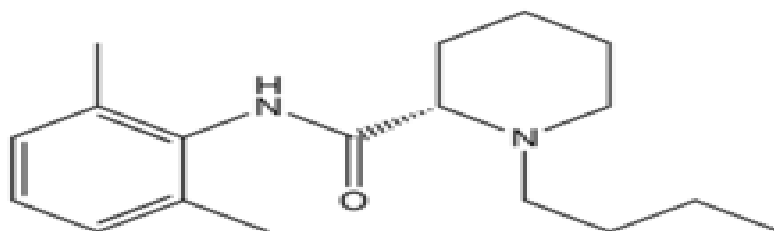
PHARMACOLOGY OF LEVOBUPIVACAINE

Levobupivacaine is the S (–) isomer of racemic bupivacaine, exhibiting similar physicochemical properties. It is highly protein-bound, lipid-soluble, and shares a comparable pKa to bupivacaine.

Levobupivacaine's S enantiomer has exactly the same physicochemical characteristics, however it may have a different affinity for the site of action or have different adverse effects. The S-enantiomer exhibits significantly less neurological and cardiac damage than the R-enantiomer due to the enantiomer's distinct affinity for sodium, potassium, and calcium channels.

Levobupivacaine is as potent as bupivacaine and produces similar sensory and motor block. Some studies have shown more sensory blockade and less motor blockade compared to bupivacaine which may be related to the higher vasoconstrictive activity of levobupivacaine than that of R (+) enantiomer (dexbupivacaine) at lower doses³⁴.

Figure number 12: Chemical structure of levobupivacaine



Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

It depends on the route of administration, vascularity of the tissue, dose, volume and concentration. Absorption of epidural levobupivacaine is biphasic and influenced by factors such as age and drug concentration. Older patients may experience broader analgesic spread, up to three dermatomes, necessitating reduced dosing³⁵.

Distribution

Levobupivacaine is extensively bound to plasma proteins and widely distributed throughout the body.

Metabolism and excretion

Hepatic cytochrome P450 enzymes metabolize levobupivacaine to form 3-hydroxylevobupivacaine and desbutyl-levobupivacaine. Metabolites are excreted in the urine as glucuronic acid and sulfate ester conjugates.

Adverse effects

CNS:

Levobupivacaine induces less neurotoxicity compared to bupivacaine, yet CNS toxicity symptoms are similar. Its uptake by CNS cells is enantio-selective, enhancing safety profiles. Many animal models show that the convulsive threshold is higher than that of bupivacaine³⁶, which results in less CNS symptoms and excitatory alterations in the electroencephalogram in human volunteers following intravenous injection.

CVS:

The S (–) isomer exhibits weaker potassium channel blocking potency, reducing the likelihood of QTc interval prolongation. Stereoselective binding to sodium and potassium channels decreases the inhibitory effects, thereby lowering the overall toxicity potential compared to bupivacaine.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- **Source of data:** This research was carried out in the Department of Anaesthesiology at B.L.D.E (Deemed to be University) Shri B. M. Patil Medical College, Hospital, and Research Centre, Vijayapura.
- **Study design:** This is a randomized double blind prospective comparative study.
- **Study period:** This study was conducted from September 2022 to march 2024
- **Study population:** This study will be done in 130 randomly selected parturient women scheduled for elective cesarean delivery of more than 37 weeks gestation, who belong to ASA (American society of anesthesiologist) class 1 and 2.
- **Statistical Analysis:**
 - The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 20, was used to analyze the data, which was entered into Microsoft Excel.
 - Bar graphs, percentages, and Mean \pm SD were used to express the results.
 - The independent t-test was applied for normally distributed continuous variables.
 - The Mann-Whitney U test was used for non-normally distributed variables.
 - The chi-square test was employed for categorical variables.
 - A p-value of less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

1. Women more than 37 weeks period of gestation
2. ASA class I and II
3. Scheduled for elective cesarean delivery

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

1. Refusing regional anaesthesia.
2. Having contraindications to spinal anaesthesia.
3. Body weight more than 100kg
4. Shorter than 150cm
5. Taller than 175cm
6. Women receiving medications other than perinatal vitamin, calcium, proteins and iron.
7. Mothers with previous Systemic diseases.
8. Expected mothers with foetal anomaly, placenta previa, abruption placenta.

METHODOLOGY

Preliminaries

- Written informed consent is taken.
- Nil per oral status confirmed.
- Intravenous access is secured with a 20gauge cannula.

Preanesthetic evaluation:

- Before taking the patient for surgery, detailed history, general and systemic examination is carried out the previous day.
- History of any significant medical illness is elicited and medication history taken.
- Airway, respiratory system and cardiovascular system are assessed.

Investigations:

- Complete blood count, Bleeding time, Clotting Time.
- Blood sugars.
- Serology.

PROCEDURE

- Patients are assessed preoperatively, nil per oral status confirmed on the day of surgery.
- Intravenous access is gained using a 20gauge iv cannula and Ringer's lactate fluid is started at 15ml/kg/hour.
- After shifting to surgical table standard monitoring devices like pulse oximetry, noninvasive blood pressure, ECG leads are attached and baseline values are recorded.

- Then patients are placed in left lateral decubitus position, under aseptic precautions painting and draping are done.
- Then subcutaneous infiltration is done with 1-2 ml of 2% lignocaine at L3-L4 interface.
- Then lumbar puncture is performed with 26G quincke's spinal needle and subarachnoid space is identified.
- Patients are randomly divided into two groups –
 - Group BF – 65 patients belonging to ASA class 1 and 2 received 10mg 0.5% (2 ml) of hyperbaric bupivacaine with 25mcg (0.5 ml) fentanyl.
 - Group LF – 65 patients belonging to ASA class 1 and 2 received 10mg 0.5% (2 ml) of hyperbaric levobupivacaine with 25mcg (0.5ml) fentanyl.
- Two group administered intrathecally within the 10 seconds. Subsequently, patients were turned to supine position. Oxygen at 4 L/min was administered through a facial mask.
- The sensory level of spinal anesthesia was assessed bilaterally in the mid clavicular line by pinprick, cold swab and motor level assessment with Bromage scale.
- Surgeons were permitted to operate once level of T4 to T6 is achieved.
- Spinal anesthesia Time will be noted and the following parameters are recorded every 2minutes from time 0 for the initial 60 minutes, then monitored every 30minutes till completion of surgery and every hourly for 24 hours.

Parameters:

- Pulse rate (PR)
- Systolic blood pressure (S.B.P.)
- Diastolic blood pressure (DBP)
- Mean Arterial pressure (M.A.P.)
- Oxygen saturation (SpO₂)
- Using the intrathecal injection time as time zero, the duration of the sensory block, the time it takes to achieve its maximum level, the time it takes for the two dermatomes of the block to regression, and the time to initiation of the sensory block.
- It is noted when the sensory block level reverses from the maximum level to T12. The modified Bromage scale is used to measure the degree of motor block.
- Onset of sensory block was considered as duration between time of study drug given and loss of pain prick test at T10 dermatome level.
- Time of 2 segment regression of sensory block was taken as duration between time of onset of sensory block at T10 and sensory block regression to T12 dermatome level.
- Duration of sensory block was taken as duration between time of onset of sensory block and sensory block regression to S2 dermatome level.
- The time interval from study drug injection to motor paralysis equal to a Bromage score of 3 was used to determine the onset of motor block.
- From the moment a motor block started until all motor function returned to a Bromage score of 0, that was the duration of the motor block.
- Episode of bradycardia
- Episode of hypotension
- Episode of nausea and vomiting
- Adverse effects like shivering, itching, headache is noted.
- APGAR score noted at 1 minute and 5 minutes.

INTERPRETATION:

CHARACTERISTICS OF ANESTHESIA:

SENSORY BLOCK

1. Onset of sensory block
2. Time to reach T10 level.
3. Time to reach T4 level.
4. Time for regression of two dermatomes.
5. Total duration of sensory block.

MOTOR BLOCK

1. Onset of motor block.
2. Time to reach maximum level.
3. Total duration of motor block.

DURATION OF ANALGESIA

SIDE EFFECTS:

Hypotension, bradycardia, headache, backache, nausea, vomiting, itching, sedation, shivering.

MODIFIED BROMAGE SCALE

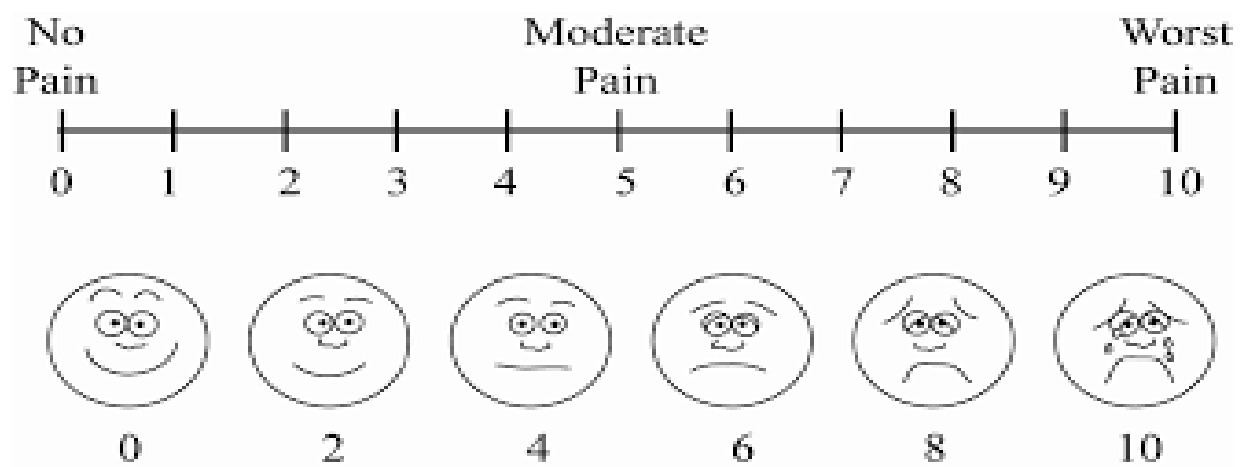
0 = No block

1 = Inability to raise extended leg

2 = Inability to flex knee

3 = Inability to flex ankle and foot

Figure number 13: Visual analogue scale (VAS)



OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

- This randomized double blind prospective comparative study was done on 130 parturients, belonging to ASA class 1 and 2, who is undergoing elective cesarean sections in B M patil medical college, Vijayapura from September 2022 to march 2024. Patients were randomized into 2 groups to receive hyperbaric bupivacaine and hyperbaric levobupivacaine.
- Group BF (n=65) received 2ml of hyperbaric bupivacaine 0.5% with 25mcg of fentanyl as additive.
- Group LF (n=65) received 2ml of hyperbaric levobupivacaine 0.5% with 25mcg of fentanyl as additive.
- Data was entered in Microsoft office excel sheet and was analyzed by standard statistical software.
- The results were summarized by routine descriptive statistics namely mean and standard deviation for numerical variables and counts and percentage for categorical variables.
- Numerical variables are compared between groups by Mann-whitney 'U' test.
- Chi square test was employed for intergroup comparison of categorical variables. Analysis done was 2 tailed and $p < 0.005$ was considered to be statistically significant.

1. AGE

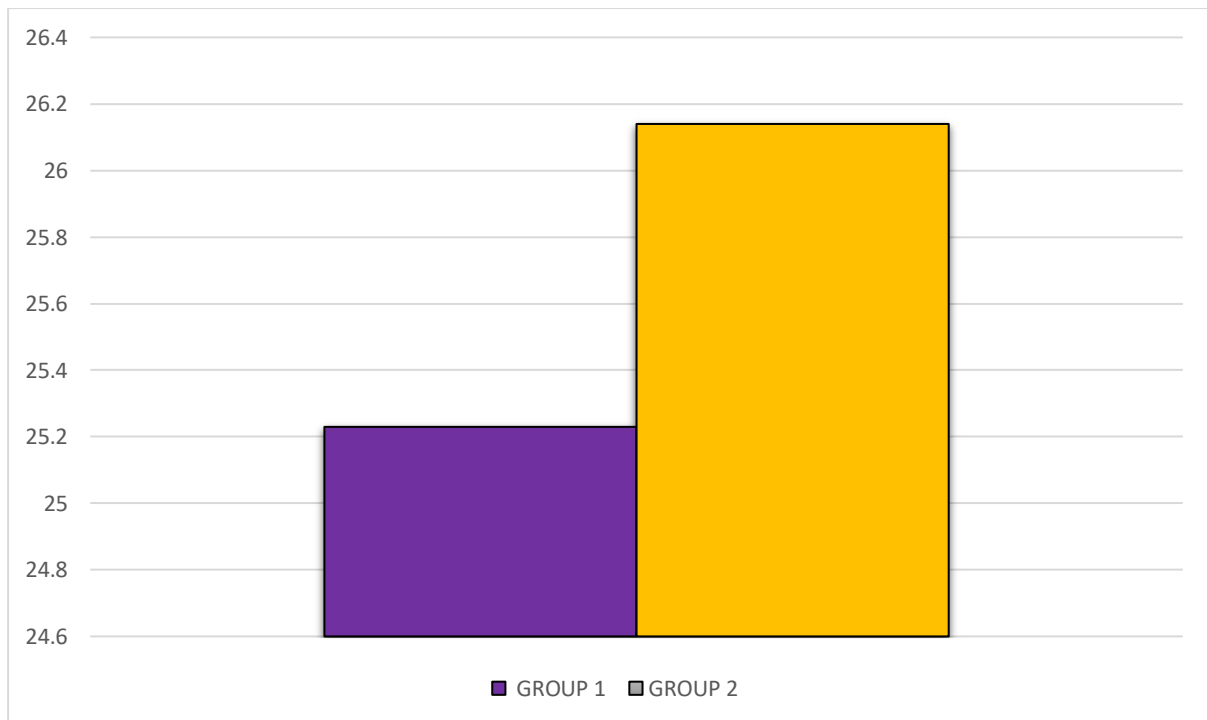
The following table 1 and bar diagram (graph 1) describe the age distribution of the patients in group 1 and group 2.

The mean age was similar in both groups (25.23 +/- 4.63 in group 1 and 26.14 +/- 4.86 in group 2)

Table 1 comparison of age (years) distribution

	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
AGE	25.23	4.633	26.14	4.863	1840.5	0.204

Graph 1 comparison of age (years) distribution



2. ONSET OF SENSORY BLOCK IN MINUTES

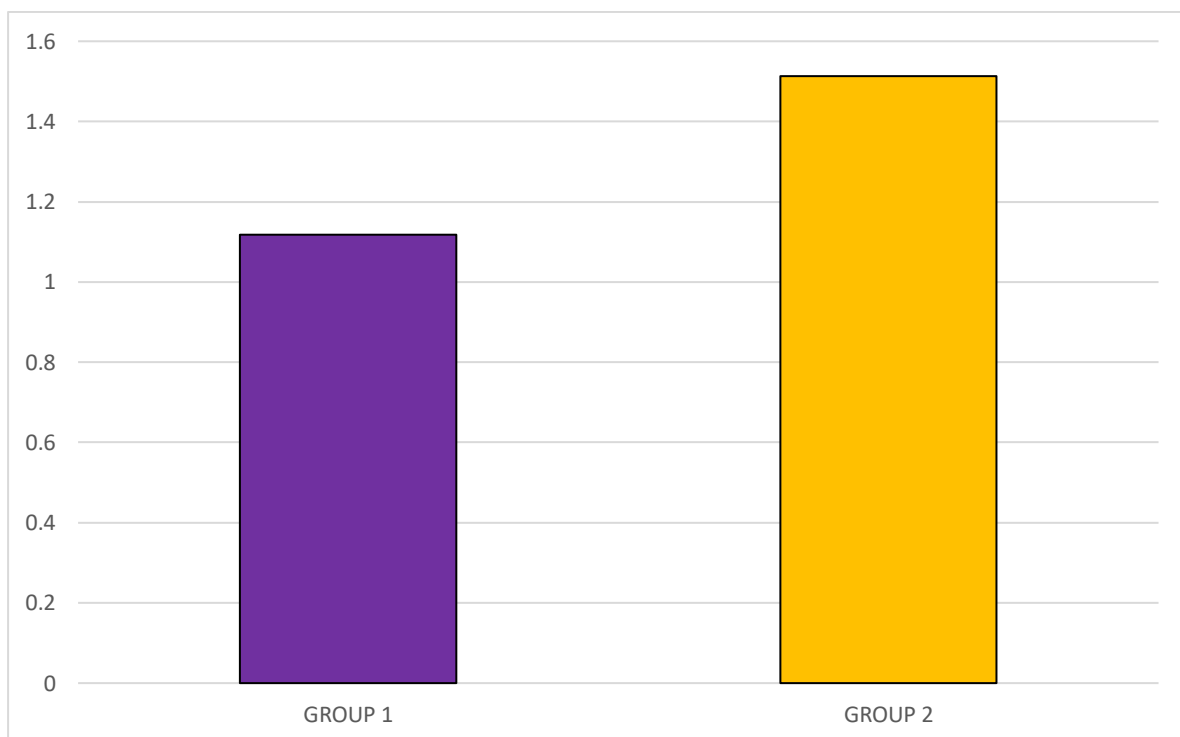
The following table 2 and graph 2 describe the mean onset of sensory block in group 1 and group 2.

The mean onset of sensory block was higher in group 2 levobupivacaine group (1.5131 \pm 0.86883) compared to group 1 bupivacaine group (1.1185 \pm 0.60023).

Table 2 comparison of onset of sensory blocks in group 1 and group 2

ONSET OF SENSORY BLOCK IN MINUTES	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	1.1185	0.60023	1.5131	0.86883		

Graph 2 comparison of onset of sensory blocks in group 1 and group 2



3. TIME TO REACH T10 IN MINUTES

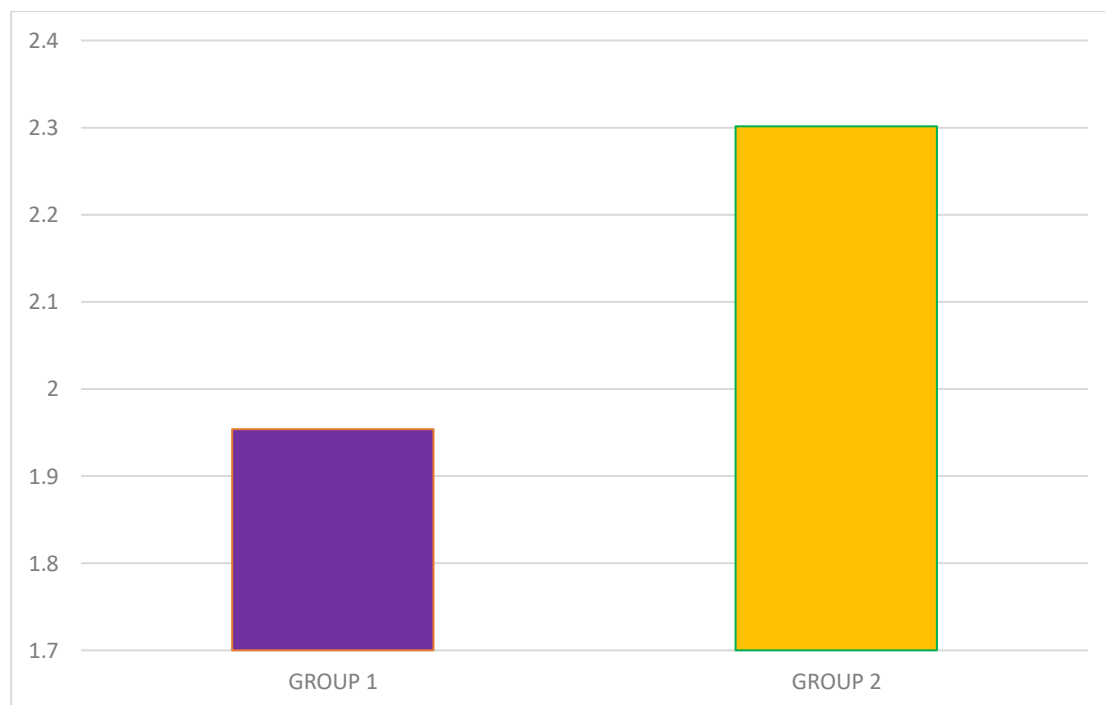
The following table 3 and bar diagram graph 3 describe mean onset of time to reach T10 in minutes in group 1 and group 2

The mean onset of time to reach T10 in minutes is more in group 2 levobupivacaine group (1.9538 \pm 1.25) compared to group 2 bupivacaine (2.3015 \pm 1.1818).

Table 3 comparison of time to reach T10 in minutes

TIME TO REACH T10 IN MINUTES	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	1.9538	1.25702	2.3015	1.1818	2027	0.517

Graph 3 comparison of time to reach T10 in minutes



4. TIME TO REACH T4 IN MINUTES

The following table 4 and graph 4 represents comparison of time to reach T4 in group 1 and group 2.

The means of comparison to reach T4 is slightly higher in group 1 bupivacaine group (0.846+/-2.89) compared to group 2 levobupivacaine (0.466+/-1.294)

Table 4 comparison of time to reach T4 in minutes

TIME TO REACH T4 IN MINUTES	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	0.846	2.8952	0.466	1.294	2027	0.517

Graph 4 comparison of time to reach T4 in minutes



5. TIME OF REGRESSION OF DERMATOME

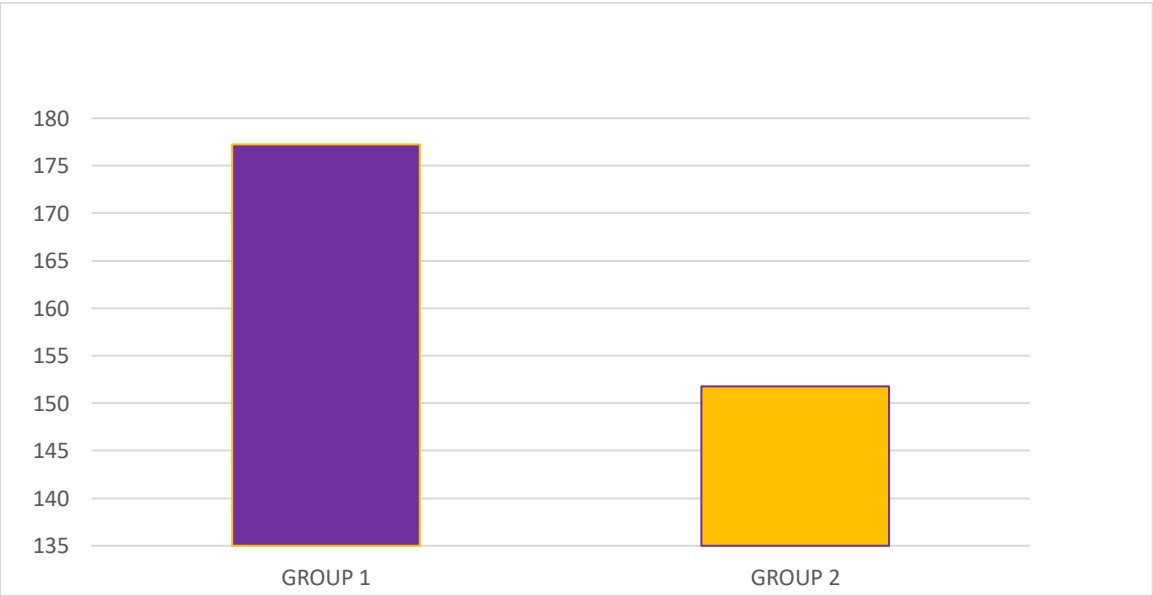
The following table 5 and graph 5 is comparison of regression of dermatome with group 1 and group 2.

The mean of regression shows significant difference between two group as p value is 0. The mean is higher in group 1 bupivacaine group (177.25+/- 35.691) compared to group 2 levobupivacaine group (151.78+/-35.016).

Table 5 Comparison of regression of dermatome

TIME OF REGRESSION OF DERMATOME	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	177.25	35.691	151.78	35.016	2027	0

Graph 5 comparison of regression of dermatome



6. TOTAL DURATION OF SENSORY BLOCK

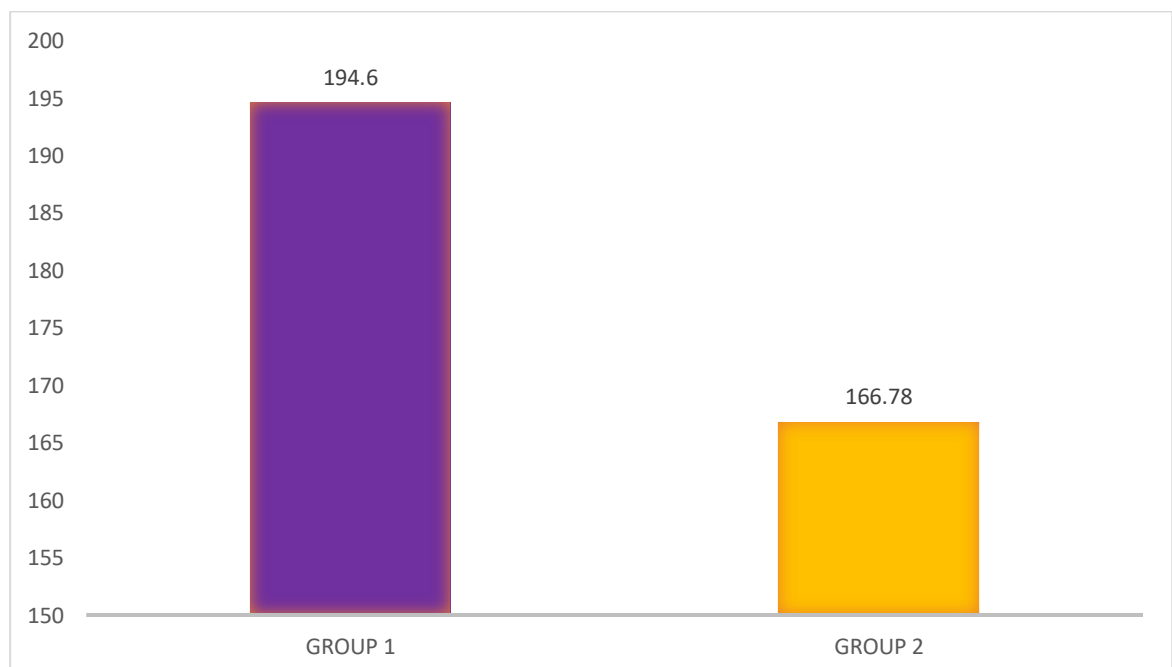
The following table 6 and graph 6 represents comparison of total duration of sensory block in group 1 and group 2.

The mean of comparison of total duration of sensory block is significantly more in group 1 bupivacaine group (194.6+/-30.543) compared to group 2 levobupivacaine group (166.78+/-31.978). p value is 0 which is significant.

Table 6 Comparison of total duration of sensory block

TOTAL DURATION OF SENSORY BLOCK IN MINUTES	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	194.6	30.543	166.78	31.978		

Graph 6 Comparison of total duration of sensory block



7. ONSET OF MOTOR BLOCK IN MINUTES

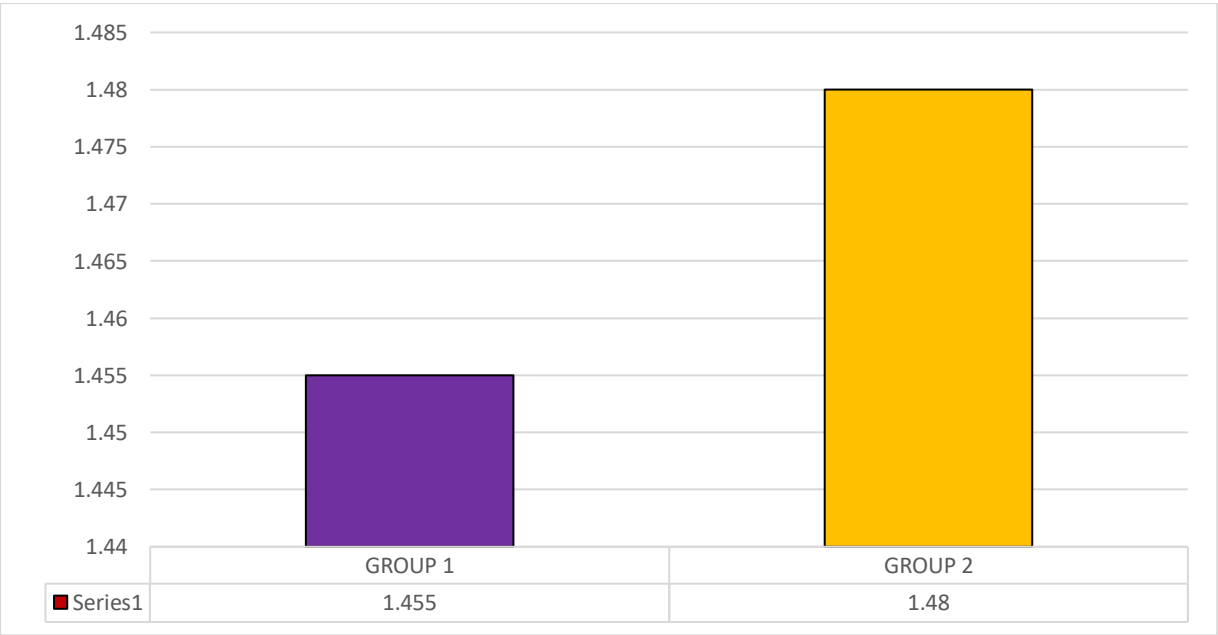
The following table 7 and graph 7 describes the comparison of onset of motor block in group 1 and group 2.

The mean of comparison of motor block in group 1 is (1.45+/-0.99) compared to group 2 (1.48+/-0.66).

Table 7 Comparison of onset of motor block

THE ONSET OF MOTOR BLOCK IN MINUTES	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	1.455	0.99	1.48	0.6636		

Graph 7 comparison of onset of motor block



8. TIME TO REACH MAXIMUM LEVEL IN MINUTES

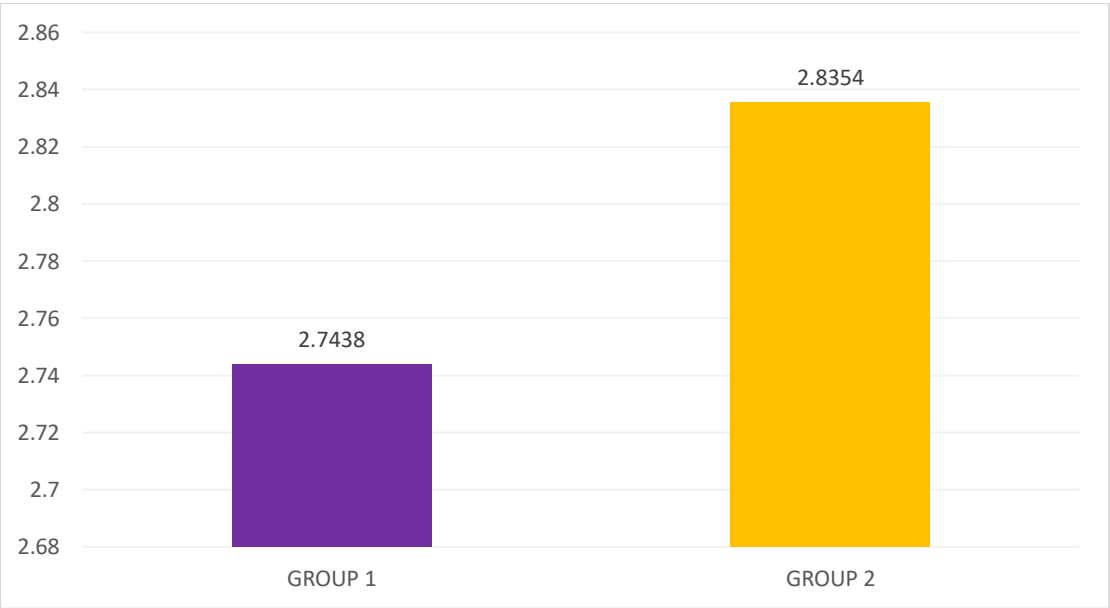
The following table 8 and graph 8 describes comparison between group 1 and group 2 the time to reach maximum level in minutes.

The mean of comparison of time to reach maximum level is similar in both groups. In group 1 it shows mean (2.7438+/-1.8255) and in group 2 it shows (2.834+/-1.1).

Table 8 comparison about time to reach maximum level in minutes

TIME TO REACH MAXIMUM LEVEL IN MINUTES	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	2.7438	1.8255	2.8354	1.1		

Graph 8 comparison about time to reach maximum level in minutes



9. DURATION OF ANALGESIA

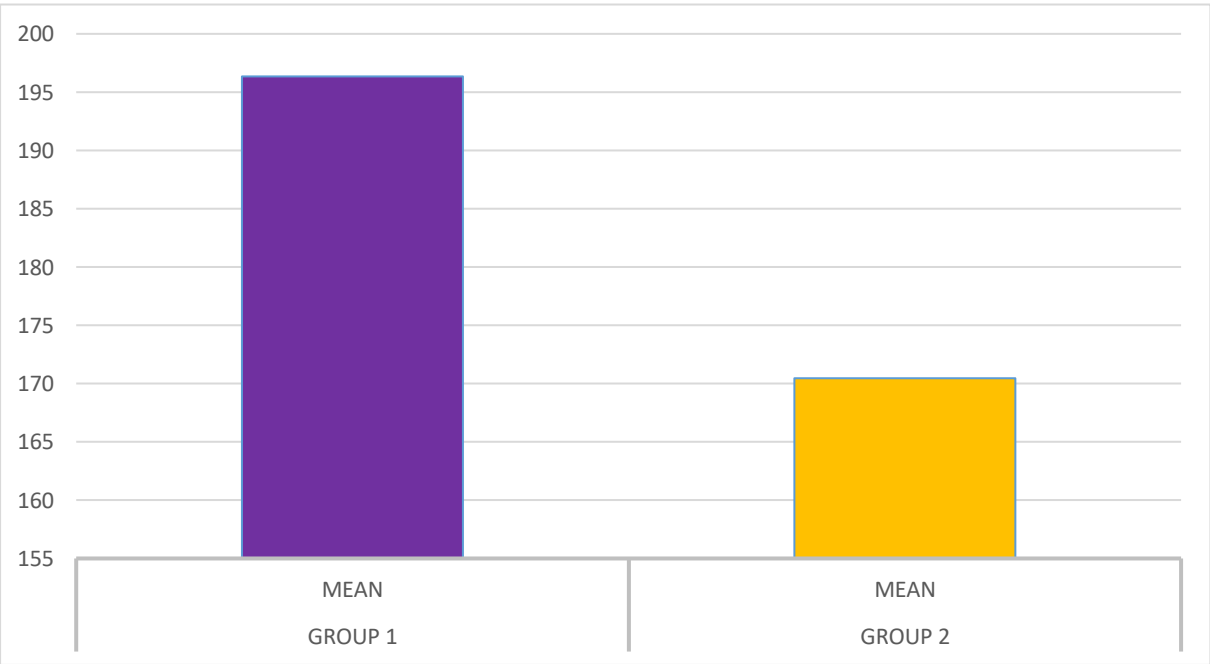
The following table 9 and graph 9 describes comparison of total duration of analgesia in two groups which is significant as p value is 0.

The mean hour in group 1 bupivacaine (196.35+/-29.65) is longer duration compared to group 2 levobupivacaine (170+/-34.425).

Table 9 Comparison of duration of analgesia

DURATION OF ANALGESIA IN HOURS	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		MANN WHITNEY TEST	P VALUE
	MEAN	SD	MEAN	SD		
	196.35	29.654	170.46	34.425	1318.5	0

Graph 9 Comparison of duration of analgesia



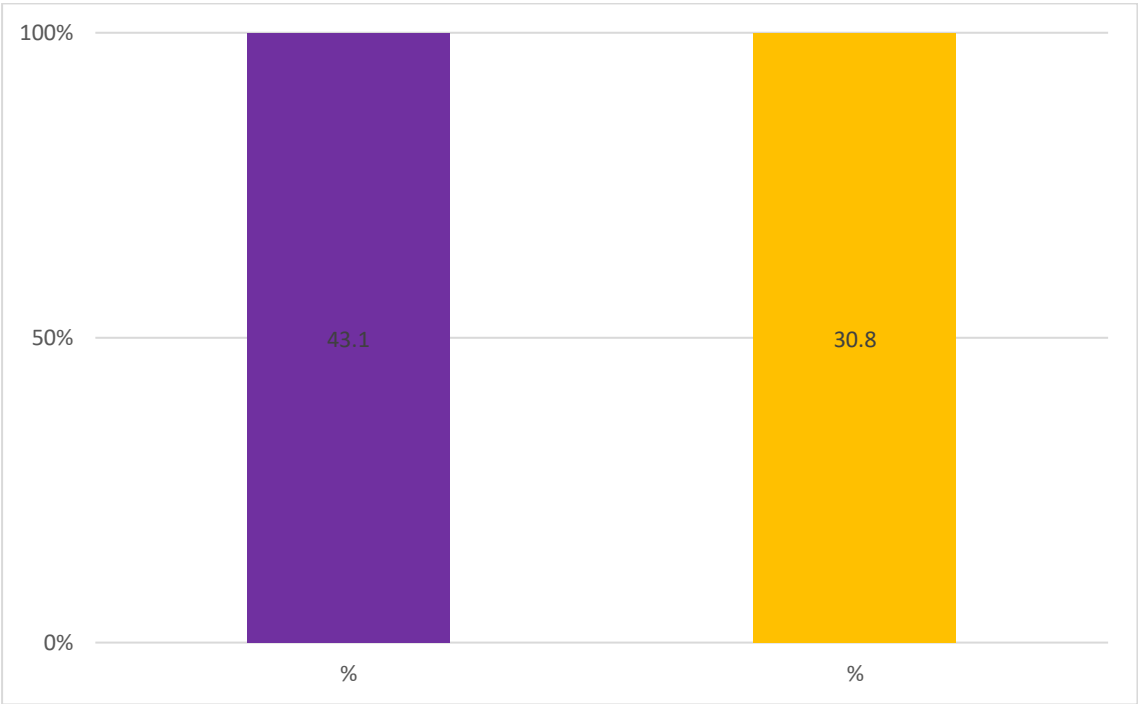
10.EPISODES OF HYPOTENSION

The following table 10 and graph 10 describes the episode of hypotension in group 1 and group 2. The incidence of hypotension is slightly higher in group 1 bupivacaine group compared to group 2 levobupivacaine.

Table 10 Comparison of episodes of hypotension

	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		CHI SQUARE TEST	P VALUE
	n	%	n	%		
HYPOTENSION	28	43.1	20	30.8	2.114	0.146

Graph 10 Comparison of episodes of hypotension



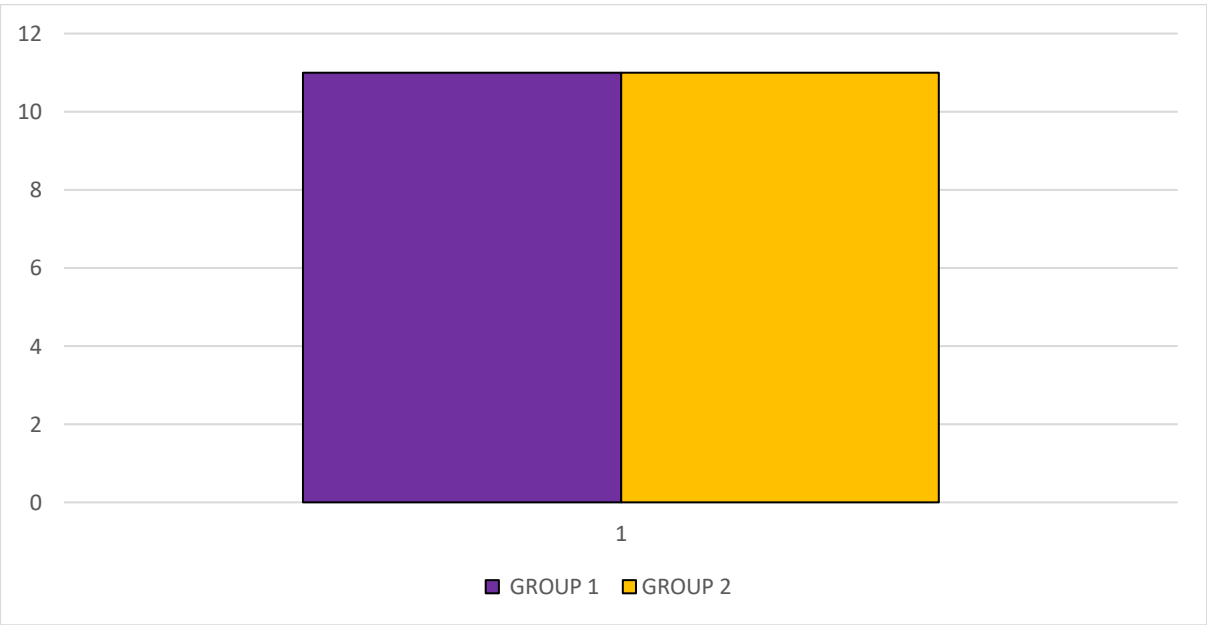
11.EPISODES OF BRADYCARDIA

The following table 11 and graph 11 represents the comparison of episodes of bradycardia in group 1 bupivacaine and group 2 levobupivacaine. There is no significant difference between two groups.

Table 11 Comparison of episode of bradycardia

BRADYCARDIA	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		CHI SQUARE TEST	P VALUE
	n	%	n	%		
	11	16.9	11	16.9	0	1

Graph 11 Comparison of episode of bradycardia



12. EPISODES OF NAUSEA AND VOMITING

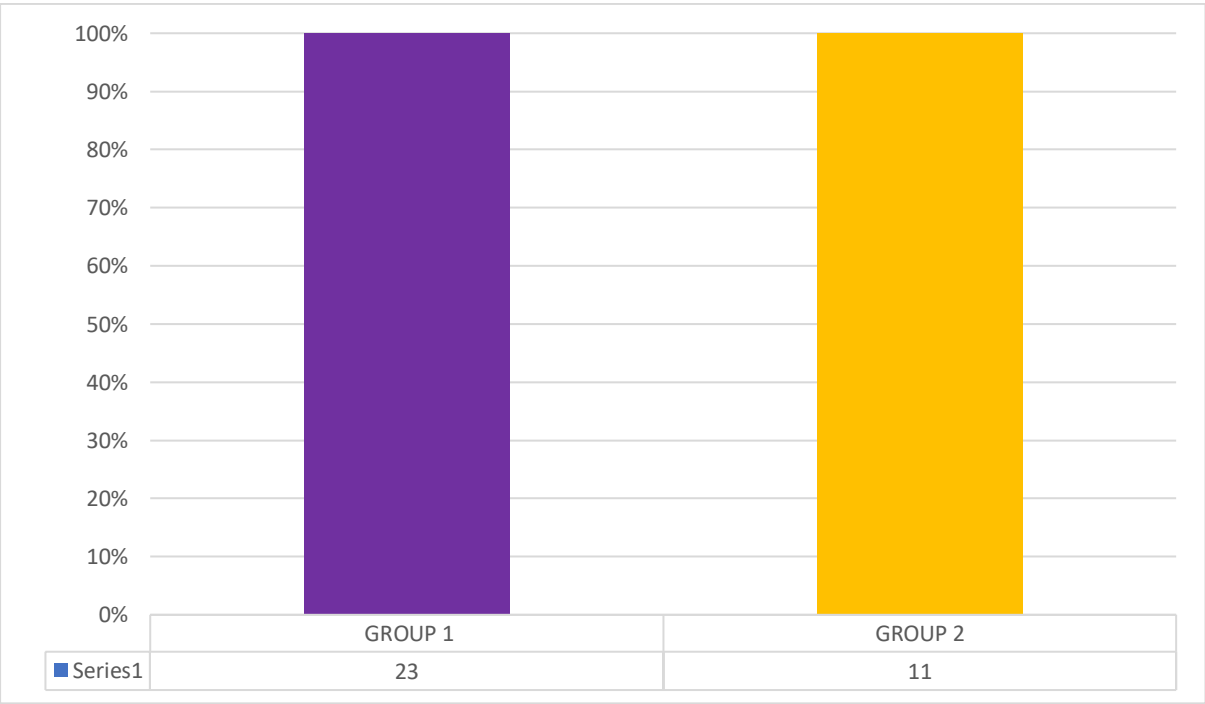
The following table 12 and graph 12 depicts the comparison of episodes of nausea and vomiting in group 1 and group 2.

It shows episodes of nausea and vomiting is more in group 1 bupivacaine group compared to group 2 levobupivacaine group.

Table 12 Comparison of nausea and vomiting

NAUSEA VOMITING	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		CHI SQUARE TEST	P VALUE
	n	%	n	%		
	23	35.4	11	16.9		

Graph 12 Comparison of nausea and vomiting



13. EPISODES OF HEADACHE

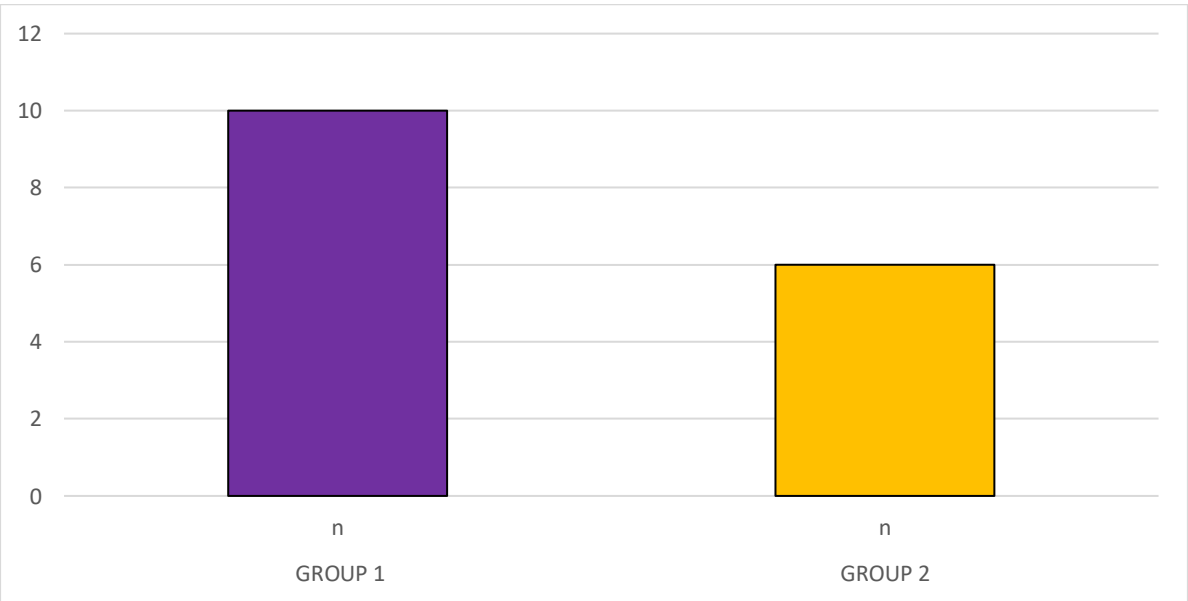
The following table 13 and graph 13 represents the comparison of episodes of headache in group 1 and group 2.

The comparison shows slightly more in group 1 bupivacaine group compared to group 2 levobupivacaine.

Table 13 Episodes of headache

HEADACHE	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		CHI SQUARE TEST	P VALUE
	n	%	n	%		
	10	15.4	6	9.2		

Graph 13 Episodes of headache



14.EPISODES OF ITCHING

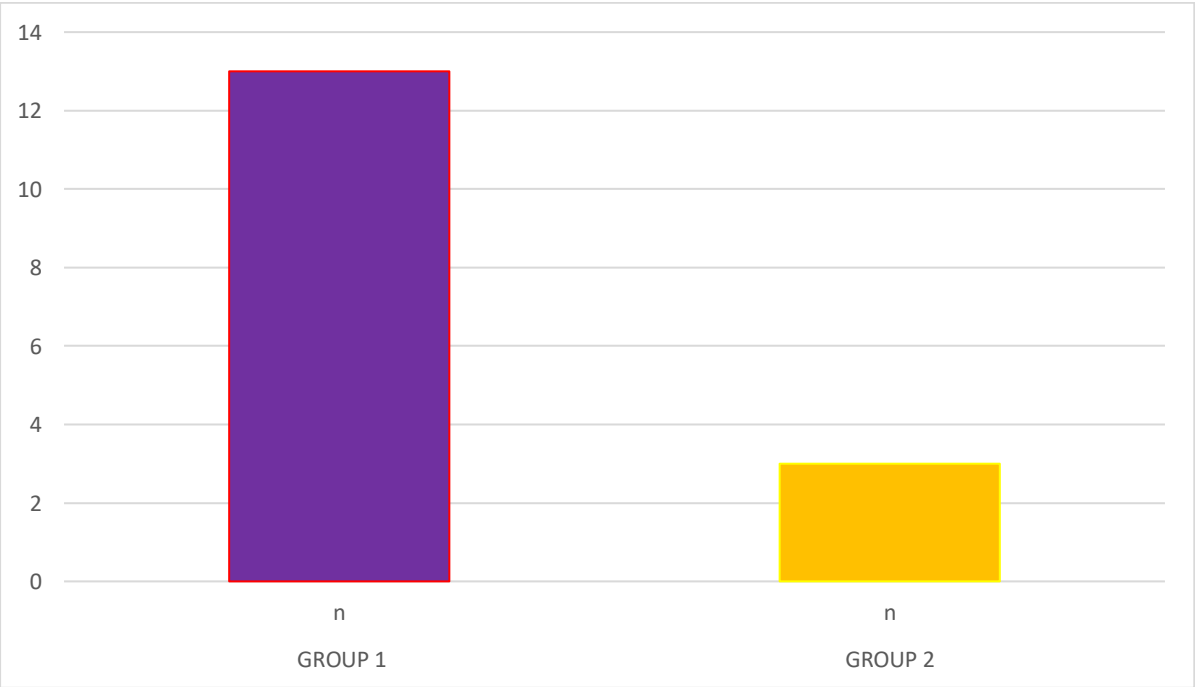
The following table 14 and graph 14 describes the comparison of episodes of itching in group 1 and 2.

It shows significant higher number of itching in group 1 bupivacaine compared to group 2 levobupivacaine.

Table 14 Comparison of itching

ITCHING	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		CHI SQUARE TEST	P VALUE
	n	%	n	%		
	13	20	3	4.6	7.127	0.008

Graph 14 Comparison of itching



15. EPISODES OF SHIVERING

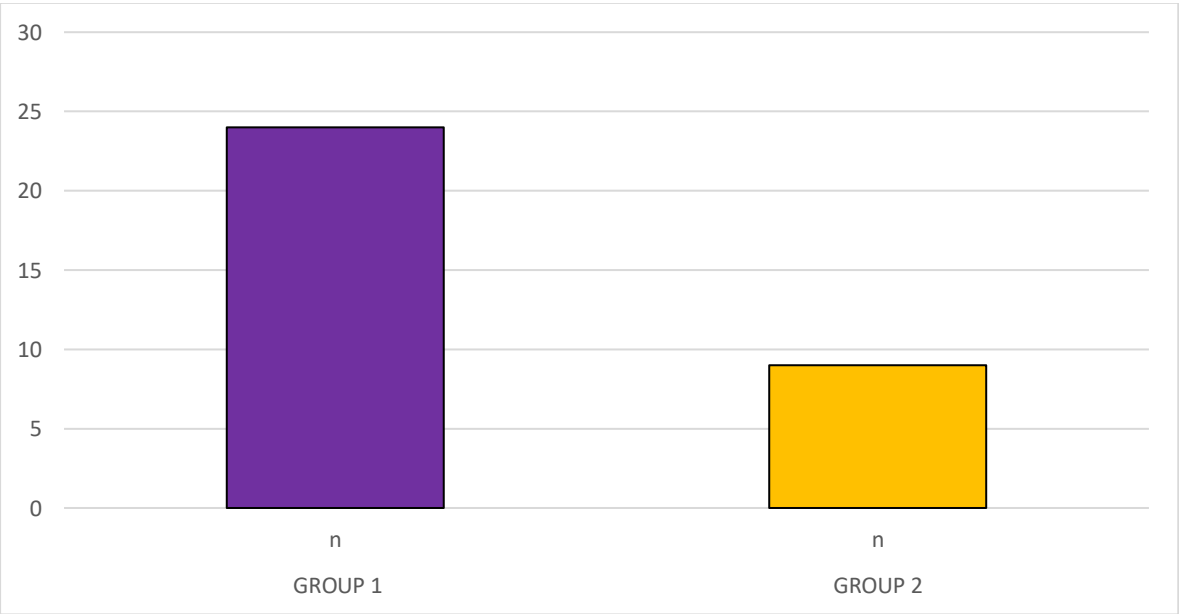
The following table 15 and graph 15 describes the comparison of episodes of shivering in group 1 and group 2.

It shows significant higher rate of shivering episodes in group 1 bupivacaine compared to group 2 in levobupivacaine.

Table 15 Comparison of shivering

SHIVERING	GROUP 1		GROUP 2		CHI SQUARE TEST	P VALUE
	n	%	n	%		
	24	36.9	9	13.8	9.138	0.003

Graph 15 Comparison of shivering



DISCUSSION

- This study compares the effects of hyperbaric bupivacaine 10mg and hyperbaric levobupivacaine 10mg, both combined with 25mcg fentanyl, in elective cesarean sections. Both drug combinations produce similar quality in the onset of sensory and motor blockade, with comparable maternal hemodynamic and neonatal outcomes.
- However, levobupivacaine has a shorter duration of sensory and motor blockade compared to bupivacaine. Bupivacaine offers a longer duration of analgesia.
- Intrathecal opioids enhance the efficacy of local anesthetics in neuraxial blockade by increasing the duration of analgesia and promoting hemodynamic stability through dose reduction of the local anesthetics³⁸.
- The duration of postoperative analgesia increases with higher doses of bupivacaine. Adding fentanyl to bupivacaine enhances postoperative analgesia, though it also prolongs motor recovery.
- Bogra et al. found that intrathecal fentanyl in elective cesarean sections creates a synergistic effect due to its rapid onset and short duration, with fewer respiratory issues³⁹.
- Lee et al⁴⁰ reported that using levobupivacaine 0.5% with fentanyl in urological surgery is as effective as using levobupivacaine alone.
- Bidikar et al⁴¹ compared levobupivacaine 0.5% 10mg with a lower dose plus fentanyl and found that the combination extended sensory block duration and delayed the need for additional analgesia without prolonging motor block.

- In a study by Atienzar et al⁴² compared the analgesic efficacy of bupivacaine, levobupivacaine, and ropivacaine in labor analgesia, concluding all were effective but pain scores were higher with levobupivacaine. Motor block was more significant with bupivacaine.
- In a study by Bremerich et al⁴³ conducted study to compare hyperbaric bupivacaine 0.5% with hyperbaric levobupivacaine 0.5% with addition of opioid as either fentanyl 10mcg or 20 mcg or sufentanil 5mcg in order of sensory and motor block characteristics and analgesic effects. The study found that levobupivacaine produced shorter and a less pronounced motor blockade than the bupivacaine, regardless of the opioid added. No parturient experienced intraoperative pain. Adding sufentanil 5 µg to either local anaesthetic significantly prolonged duration of effective analgesia compared to supplemental fentanyl 10 or 20 µg.
- In a study by Esraa et al⁴⁴ compared levobupivacaine and bupivacaine in cesarean sections, finding that both provide adequate surgical anesthesia. Levobupivacaine intrathecally offers a safer option due to lower incidences of cardiotoxicity and neurotoxicity, although hypotension is common during spinal anesthesia due to CSF displacement caused by pregnancy-related engorgement of epidural veins.
- Hypotension is most common side effect seen with more than 50% of parturients during spinal anaesthesia, due to engorgement of epidural veins from aortocaval compression in pregnancy, which causes displacement of CSF and causes more cephalad spread of local anaesthetics. This increases risk of hypotension.
- In the current study, decreases in systolic and diastolic blood pressure were within acceptable ranges (bupivacaine group 43.1% and levobupivacaine group 30.8%).

- The incidence of hypotension was similar in both groups, with levobupivacaine plus fentanyl providing better hemodynamic stability. Hypotension is considered when SBP is less than 90mmhg.
- Bradycardia is produced when there is cephalad spread of blockade more than T4 level. The percentage of bradycardia is similar in both groups.
- Itching is most common side effects associated with addition of fentanyl. The adverse effects are more in bupivacaine group 20% compared to levobupivacaine group 4.6%. Shivering is also seen more in number in bupivacaine group 36.9% and in levobupivacaine group 13.8%.
- In our study the onset of sensorial and motor blockade is similar in both group without much significant difference, but duration of sensory and motor blockade is shorter with levobupivacaine.
- The duration of analgesia is increased with addition of fentanyl which provides synergistic effect with bupivacaine. Hence duration of analgesia is longer with bupivacaine group (196.35) compared to levobupivacaine group (170.46).
- The study which is comparing the study of fentanyl with bupivacaine and levobupivacaine in elective cesarean sections similar to our study is Goyal A et al⁴⁵. They compared hyperbaric bupivacaine(10mg) with 25mcg fentanyl and isobaric levobupivacaine(10mg) with fentanyl 25mcg in elective cesarean sections.
- They assessed sensory and motor blockade characteristics with side effects associated with bupivacaine. Levobupivacaine with fentanyl in the study provides early ambulation in elective sections by reducing motor block time, reducing side effects such hypotension and bradycardia, and improving hemodynamic stability.
- In our study, the neonatal effects of both drug combinations were similar, as measured by APGAR scores at 1 and 5 minutes, indicating no significant impact of the opioids or local anesthetics on neonates⁴⁶.

SUMMARY

Our study's objective was to determine whether using an opioid in conjunction with low-dose local anesthetics could lessen the adverse effects of the anesthetics.

Spinal anesthesia with levobupivacaine provides potential advantages over bupivacaine with better hemodynamic stability and lesser side effects.

In this context a randomized double blind prospective comparative study was conducted in 130 parturients, who belong to ASA grade I and II posted for elective cesarean sections.

They are randomized into two groups Group BF and Group LF each having 65 patients, to receive hyperbaric bupivacaine 10mg with 25mcg fentanyl and hyperbaric levobupivacaine 10mg with 25mcg fentanyl in Group BF and Group LF respectively.

Then pre op, intra op and post operative parameters are recorded and comparison between two groups was further done using standardized statistical methods.

The mean of regression of dermatome shows significant difference between two group. The mean is higher in group 1 bupivacaine group (177.25 ± 35.691) compared to group 2 levobupivacaine group (151.78 ± 35.016).

The mean of comparison of total duration of sensory block is significantly more in group 1 bupivacaine group (194.6 ± 30.543) compared to group 2 levobupivacaine group (166.78 ± 31.978). Motor blockade was less in the levobupivacaine group.

Duration of analgesia was significantly more in the bupivacaine group compared to levobupivacaine group. The mean hour in group 1 bupivacaine (196.35 ± 29.65) is longer duration compared to group 2 levobupivacaine (170 ± 34.425).

The episodes of itching and shivering was significantly lower in levobupivacaine group. There was no incidence of block failure in both the study groups.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, it can be concluded that hyperbaric levobupivacaine and hyperbaric bupivacaine both quickly and successfully induce surgical anesthetic for elective cesarean sections without having a negative impact on newborns.

However, combination of fentanyl with levobupivacaine offers shorter sensory and motor block time with better hemodynamic stability and lesser side effects thus minimizing the risk and provides early mobility in parturients after the elective procedure.

Therefore, the combination of levobupivacaine with fentanyl is the preferred alternative for elective cesarean sections.

REFERENCES

1. Bajwa SJ, Kaur J. Clinical profile of levobupivacaine in regional anesthesia: A systematic review. *Journal of Anaesthesiology Clinical Pharmacology*. 2013 Oct 1;29(4):530-9.
2. Goyal A, Shankaranarayan P, Ganapathi P. A randomized clinical study comparing spinal anesthesia with isobaric levobupivacaine with fentanyl and hyperbaric bupivacaine with fentanyl in elective cesarean sections. *Anesthesia Essays and Researches*. 2015 Jan 1;9(1):57-62.
3. Guler G, Cakir G, Ulgey A, Ugur F, Bicer C, Gunes I, Boyaci A. A comparison of spinal anesthesia with levobupivacaine and hyperbaric bupivacaine for cesarean sections: A randomized trial.
4. Singh AK, Palaniappan S, Selvaraju K. To Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of Isobaric Levobupivacaine Versus Hyperbaric Bupivacaine in Lower Limb Orthopaedic Surgeries. *European Journal of Molecular and Clinical Medicine*. 2022 Jan 30;9(3):310-7.
5. Kazak Z, Ekmekçi P, Kazbek K. Hyperbaric levobupivacaine in anal surgery: Spinal perianal and spinal saddle blocks. *Anaesthesist*. 2010.
6. Luck JF, Fettes PD, Wildsmith JA. Spinal anaesthesia for elective surgery: a comparison of hyperbaric solutions of racemic bupivacaine, levobupivacaine, and ropivacaine. *British journal of anaesthesia*. 2008 Nov 1;101(5):705-10.

7. Akcaboy EY, Akcaboy ZN, Gogus N. Low dose levobupivacaine 0.5% with fentanyl in spinal anaesthesia for transurethral resection of prostate surgery. *Journal of research in medical sciences: the official journal of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences*. 2011 Jan;16(1):68.
8. Cappelleri G, Aldegheri G, Danelli G, Marchetti C, Nuzzi M, Iannandrea G, Casati A. Spinal anesthesia with hyperbaric levobupivacaine and ropivacaine for outpatient knee arthroscopy: a prospective, randomized, double-blind study. *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. 2005 Jul 1;101(1):77-82.
9. Mantouvalou M, Ralli S, Arnaoutoglou H, Tziris G, Papadopoulos G. Spinal anesthesia: comparison of plain ropivacaine, bupivacaine and levobupivacaine for lower abdominal surgery. *Acta Anaesthesiologica Belgica*. 2008 Jan 1;59(2):65-71.
10. Deori AK, Das A, Borgohain D, Bora D, Saikia A, Tiwari PK. A comparative study of spinal anaesthesia with levobupivacaine and hyperbaric bupivacaine for cesarean sections. *International Journal of Contemporary Medical Research*. 2016;3(7):1902-5.
11. Piacherski V, Muzyka L. Comparison of the efficacy of 0.5% isobaric bupivacaine, 0.5% levobupivacaine, and 0.5% hyperbaric bupivacaine for spinal anesthesia in lower limb surgeries. *Scientific Reports*. 2023 Feb 15;13(1):2736.

- 12.Goel S, Bhardwaj N, Grover VK. Intrathecal fentanyl added to intrathecal bupivacaine for day case surgery: a randomized study. *European journal of anaesthesiology*. 2003 Apr;20(4):294-7.
- 13.Coppejans HC, Vercauteren MP. Low-dose combined spinal-epidural anesthesia for cesarean delivery: a comparison of three plain local anesthetics. *Acta Anaesthesiologica Belgica*. 2006 Jan 1;57(1):39-43.
- 14.Gunusen I, Karaman S, Sargin A, Firat V. A randomized comparison of different doses of intrathecal levobupivacaine combined with fentanyl for elective cesarean section: prospective, double-blinded study. *Journal of anesthesia*. 2011 Apr;25: 205-12.
- 15.Huang YF, Pryor ME, Mather LE, Veering BT. Cardiovascular and central nervous system effects of intravenous levobupivacaine and bupivacaine in sheep. *Anesthesia & Analgesia*. 1998 Apr 1;86(4):797-804.
- 16.Casimiro C, Rodrigo J, Mendiola MA, Rey F, Barrios A, Gilsanz F. Levobupivacaine plus fentanyl versus racemic bupivacaine plus fentanyl in epidural anaesthesia for lower limb surgery. *Minerva anesthesiologica*. 2008 Apr 18;74(7-8):381-91.
- 17.Butterworth IV JF, Mackey DC, Wasnick JD. *Morgan & Mikhail's. Clinical Anesthesiology*. 2013.

- 18.Mandabach MG. The early history of spinal anesthesia.
InInternational Congress Series 2002 Dec 1 (Vol. 1242, pp. 163-168). Elsevier.
- 19.Whiteside J, Wildsmith T. Spinal anaesthesia. Principles and Practice of Regional Anaesthesia. 2012 Nov 22:124.
- 20.Van Zundert A, Goerig M. August Bier 1861-1949. Regional anesthesia and pain medicine. 2000;25(1):26.
- 21.Salinas FV, Sueda LA, Liu SS. Physiology of spinal anaesthesia and practical suggestions for successful spinal anaesthesia. Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology. 2003 Sep 1;17(3):289-303.
- 22.Halaszynski TM, Hartmannsgruber MW. Anatomy and physiology of spinal and epidural anesthesia. InSeminars in Anesthesia, Perioperative Medicine and Pain 1998 Mar 1 (Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 24-37). WB Saunders.
- 23.Hoehmann CL, Hitscherich K, Cuoco JA. The artery of Adamkiewicz: vascular anatomy, clinical significance and surgical considerations. J Cardiovasc Res 5: 6. doi: 10.4172/2324. 2016 8602:2.
- 24.Melissano G, Bertoglio L, Rinaldi E, Leopardi M, Chiesa R. An anatomical review of spinal cord blood supply. Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery. 2015;56(5):699-706.

25. Miller RD, Eriksson LI, Fleisher LA, Wiener-Kronish JP, Cohen NH, Young WL. Miller's anesthesia e-book. Elsevier Health Sciences; 2014 Oct 20.
26. Mark JB, Steele SM. Cardiovascular effects of spinal anesthesia. *International anesthesiology clinics*. 1989 Apr 1;27(1):31-9.
27. Butterworth J. Physiology of spinal anesthesia: what are the implications for management. *Regional anesthesia and pain medicine*. 1998 Jul 1;23(4):370-3.
28. Giugliano F, Lippera M, Brugnolo MP, Busca G, Fogliardi A, Carbini MA, Uguccioni S, Roberti L, Sanchioni A. Cervical peridural anesthesia in the surgery of the carotid. First experience. *Minerva anestesologica*. 1991 Sep;57(9):460-1.
29. Veering BT, Stienstra R. Duration of block: drug, dose, and additives. *Regional anesthesia and pain medicine*. 1998 Jul 1;23(4):352.
30. Pitkänen M, Rosenberg PH. Local anaesthetics and additives for spinal anaesthesia—characteristics and factors influencing the spread and duration of the block. *Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology*. 2003 Sep 1;17(3):305-22.

31. Manouchehrian N, Moradi A, Torkashvand L. Comparative study of effect of spinal anesthesia in sitting and lateral positions on the onset time of sensory block and hemodynamic condition in cesarean section: a randomized clinical trial. *Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine*. 2021 Feb;11(1).
32. Mohammadi SS, Piri M, Khajehnasiri A. Comparing three different modified sitting positions for ease of spinal needle insertion in patients undergoing spinal anesthesia. *Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine*. 2017 Oct;7(5).
33. Chang CH, Nam YT, Jeong JY, Choi SI, Lee YW. Comparative Study of Isobaric Bupivacaine Spinal Anesthesia in the Supine and Prone Positions. *Korean Journal of Anesthesiology*. 2003 May 1;44(5):605-11.
34. Foster RH, Markham A. Levobupivacaine: a review of its pharmacology and use as a local anaesthetic. *Drugs*. 2000 Mar;59(3):551-79.
35. Heppolette CA, Brunnen D, Bampoe S, Odor PM. Clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of levobupivacaine. *Clinical Pharmacokinetics*. 2020 Jun;59(6):715-45.
36. Athar M, Ahmed SM, Ali S, Siddiqi OA. Levobupivacaine: A safer alternative. *Journal of Current Research in Scientific Medicine*. 2016 Jan 1;2(1):3-9.

37. Leone S, Di Cianni S, Casati A, Fanelli G. Pharmacology, toxicology, and clinical use of new long acting local anesthetics, ropivacaine and levobupivacaine. *Acta Biomed.* 2008 Aug 1;79(2):92-105.

38. Techanivate A, Urusopone P, Kiatgungwanglia P, Kosawiboonpol R. Intrathecal fentanyl in spinal anesthesia for appendectomy. *JOURNAL-MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND.* 2004 May 1;87(5):525-30.

39. Bogra J, Arora N, Srivastava P. Synergistic effect of intrathecal fentanyl and bupivacaine in spinal anesthesia for cesarean section. *BMC anesthesiology.* 2005 Dec;5:1-6.

40. Lee YY, Muchhal K, Chan CK, Cheung AS. Levobupivacaine and fentanyl for spinal anaesthesia: a randomized trial. *European Journal of Anaesthesiology.* 2005 Dec;22(12):899-903.

41. Bidikar M, Mudakanagoudar MS, Santhosh MC. Comparison of intrathecal levobupivacaine and levobupivacaine plus fentanyl for cesarean section. *Anesthesia Essays and Researches.* 2017 Apr 1;11(2):495-8.

42. Atiénzar MC, Palanca JM, Torres F, Borràs R, Gil S, Esteve I. A randomized comparison of levobupivacaine, bupivacaine and ropivacaine with fentanyl, for labor analgesia. *International journal of obstetric anesthesia.* 2008 Apr 1;17(2):106-11.

43. Bremerich DH, Fetsch N, Zwissler BC, Meininger D, Gogarten W, Byhahn C. Comparison of intrathecal bupivacaine and levobupivacaine combined with opioids for Caesarean section. *Current medical research and opinion*. 2007 Jan 1;23(12):3047-54.
44. Abd-El Wahab EH, Soliman SM, Amen SM, El-Shehdwy SR. Comparative study between levobupivacaine versus bupivacaine in spinal anesthesia for cesarean sections. *Tanta Medical Journal*. 2018 Jul 1;46(3):232-8.
45. Goyal A, Shankaranarayan P, Ganapathi P. A randomized clinical study comparing spinal anesthesia with isobaric levobupivacaine with fentanyl and hyperbaric bupivacaine with fentanyl in elective cesarean sections. *Anesthesia Essays and Researches*. 2015 Jan 1;9(1):57-62.
46. Misirlioglu K, Sivrikaya GU, Hanci A, Yalcinkaya A. Intrathecal low-dose levobupivacaine and bupivacaine combined with fentanyl in a randomised controlled study for caesarean section: blockade characteristics, maternal and neonatal effects. *Hippokratia*. 2013 Jul;17(3):262.

ANNEXURE I

INSTITUTIONAL ETHICAL COMMITTEE



BLDE

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Declared as Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956

Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC (Cycle-2)

The Constituent College

SHRI B. M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, VIJAYAPURA

BLDE (DU)/IEC/ 785/2022-23

30/8/2022

INSTITUTIONAL ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

The Ethical Committee of this University met on Friday, 26th August, 2022 at 3.30 p.m. in the Department of Pharmacology scrutinizes the Synopsis of Post Graduate Student of BLDE (DU)'s Shri B.M.Patil Medical College Hospital & Research Centre from ethical clearance point of view. After scrutiny, the following original/ corrected and revised version synopsis of the thesis/ research projects has been accorded ethical clearance.

TITLE: "Comparison of spinal anaesthesia with hyperbaric Levobupivacaine with fentanyl and hyperbaric Bupivacaine with fentanyl in elective cesarean Sections".

NAME OF THE STUDENT/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr.Sinchana A S

NAME OF THE GUIDE: Dr.Vijaykumar T K, Dept. of Anaesthesiology

Dr. Santoshkumar Jeevangi
Chairperson
IEC, BLDE (DU),
VIJAYAPURA

Chairman,
Institutional Ethical Committee,
BLDE (Deemed to be University)
Vijayapura

Dr.Akram A. Naikwadi
Member Secretary
IEC, BLDE (DU),
VIJAYAPURA

MEMBER SECRETARY
Institutional Ethics Committee
BLDE (Deemed to be University)
Vijayapura-586103, Karnataka

Following documents were placed before Ethical Committee for Scrutiny


- Copy of Synopsis/Research Projects
- Copy of inform consent form
- Any other relevant document

Smt. Bangaramma Sajjan Campus, B. M. Patil Road (Sholapur Road), Vijayapura - 586103, Karnataka, India.

BLDE (DU): Phone: +918352-262770, Fax: +918352-263303, Website: www.bldedu.ac.in, E-mail: office@bldedu.ac.in

College: Phone: +918352-262770, Fax: +918352-263019, E-mail: bmPMC.principal@bldedu.ac.in

ANNEXURE – II

 iThenticate®

Similarity Report ID: oid:3618:62061283

PAPER NAME	AUTHOR
COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE	Sinchana AS

WORD COUNT	CHARACTER COUNT
9399 Words	55032 Characters
PAGE COUNT	FILE SIZE
76 Pages	1.7MB
SUBMISSION DATE	REPORT DATE
Jun 27, 2024 1:15 PM GMT+5:30	Jun 27, 2024 1:16 PM GMT+5:30

7% Overall Similarity

The combined total of all matches, including overlapping sources, for each database.

6% Internet database

Crossref database

5% Publications database

Crossref Posted Content database

Excluded from Similarity Report

Submitted Works database

Quoted material

Small Matches (Less than 14 words)

Bibliographic material

Cited material

Summary

ANNEXURE – III

SAMPLE INFORMED CONSENT FORM:

**B.L.D.E.(DU) SHRI B.M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL AND
RESEARCH CENTRE, VIJAYAPURA – 586103, KARNATAKA**

**TITLE OF THE PROJECT : “COMPARISON OF SPINAL
ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC
LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH
FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC
BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN
ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS”**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. SINCHANA A S

Post graduate,

Department of Anaesthesiology

sinchusambhrama@gmail.com

P. G. GUIDE

: Dr. Vijaykumar T Kalyanagoppagol

Professor,

Dept of Anaesthesiology, B.L.D. E(DU)

Shri B.M. Patil Medical College Hospital

Vijayapura

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

I have been informed that this study is “**COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTIONS**”

I have been well explained in the language I best understand about the procedure, purpose of the study, effects and possible adverse effects of the drugs by the doctor.

I hereby voluntarily give my consent for the participation in the study. I have been explained that I have the right to withdraw the participation from the study at any point I want. And the treatment will not be changed from the standard treatment being followed in the hospital for the denial of participation in the study.

I allow the clinical information related to me to be used for research and academic purpose. I have been explained that my name and identity was concealed throughout the process and the clinical information related to me will not be shared with or given to anyone except _____ and the concerned clinician.

I have been well explained that I will not be provided with any incentives or compensation in any form for the participation in this study.

I have been explained about the reason for doing this study and selecting me/my ward as a subject for this study. I have also been given free choice for either being included or not in the study.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

I understand that medical information produced by this study was come a part of this Hospital records and was subjected to the confidentiality and privacy regulation of this hospital. If the data are used for publication in the medical literature or for teaching purpose, no names was used and other identifiers such as photographs and audio or video tapes was used only with my special written permission. I understand that I may see the photograph and videotapes and hear audiotapes before giving this permission.

REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION:

I understand that I may ask more questions about the study at any time. Dr. SINCHANA A S is available to answer my questions or concerns. I understand that I was informed of any significant new findings discovered during the course of this study, which might influence my continued participation.

If during this study, or later, I wish to discuss my participation in or concerns regarding this study with a person not directly involved, I am aware that the social worker of the hospital is available to talk with me.

And that a copy of this consent form was given to me for careful reading.

REFUSAL OR WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATION:

I understand that my participation is voluntary and I may refuse to participate or may withdraw consent and discontinue participation in the study at any time without prejudice to my present or future care at this hospital.

I also understand that Dr. SINCHANA A S will terminate my participation in this study at any time after he has explained the reasons for doing so and has helped arrange for my continued care by my own physician or therapist, if this is appropriate

INJURY STATEMENT:

I understand that in the unlikely event of injury to me/my ward, resulting directly due to my participation in this study, such injury was reported promptly, then medical treatment would be available to me, but no further compensation was provided.

I understand that by my agreement to participate in this study, I am not waiving any of my legal rights.

I have explained to _____
the purpose of this research, the procedures required and the possible risks and benefits, to the best of my ability in patient's own language.

Patient's Name:

Age/Sex:

Parents name:

Date:

DR. SINCHANA A S

(Investigator)

Signature of the Parents:

Name:

Relation:

Address:

Witness to above signature

Phone Number:

STUDY SUBJECT CONSENT STATEMENT:

I confirm that **Dr. SINCHANA A S** has explained to me the purpose of this research, the study procedure that I will undergo and the possible discomforts and benefits that I may experience, in my own language.

I have been explained all the above in detail in my own language and I understand the same. Therefore, I agree to give my consent to participate as a subject in this research project.

(Patient)

Date

(Witness to above signature)

Date

ANNEXURE IV

PROFORMA

STUDY: COMPARISON OF SPINAL ANAESTHESIA WITH HYPERBARIC LEVOBUPIVACAINE AND HYPERBARIC BUPIVACAINE WITH FENTANYL IN ELECTIVE CESAREAN SECTION.

Patient Details	IP NO	DATE
-----------------	-------	------

Name	Age	sex	weight
------	-----	-----	--------

Diagnosis

Surgical procedure

Past History

General physical examination:

Pallor	icterus	cyanosis
clubbing	lymphadenopathy	edema

Mallampatti Grade:

Vital parameters:

Pulse	blood pressure
respiratory rate	temperature

SYSTEMIC EXAMINATION

CVS	CNS
-----	-----

RS	PA
----	----

INVESTIGATIONS

HB	TC	PLATELET
----	----	----------

HIV	HBSAG	HCV	ASA GRADE
-----	-------	-----	-----------

PARAMETERS TO BE OBSERVED:

VITALS MONITORING

parameters	Group LF/Group BF Levo/bupivacaine group	TIME	PR	BP	MAP	SPO2
SENSORY BLOCK		2MIN				
The onset of sensory block		4MIN				
		6MIN				
		8MIN				
Time to reach T10		10MIN				
Time to reach T4		12MIN				
Time of regression of dermatome		14MIN				
		16MIN				
		18MIN				
The total duration of sensory block		20MIN				
		22MIN				
		24MIN				
MOTOR BLOCK		26MIN				
The onset of motor block		28MIN				
		30MIN				
		45MIN				
Time to reach maximum level		1HR				
Duration of analgesia		1.30HR				
		2 nd HR				
		2.30HR				
Side effects		3 rd HR				
hypotension		4 th HR				
bradycardia		6 th HR				
Nausea, vomiting		12 th HR				
headache		24HR				
itching						
shivering						
APGAR SCORE						
1MIN						
5MIN						

BIO-DATA

Guide Name: Dr. Vijaykumar T Kalyanappagol
Date of Birth: 08/09/1964
Education : M.B.B.S. from M R Medical College Kalaburgi
M D from Shri B.M.P.A.T.I.L. Medical college vijayapur
D A from J.N. Medical College Belgaum
Designation : Professor in Anesthesiology

Teaching: Total work experience 30 years
P.G. teaching for 22years
P.G. guide 13 years
Address: Plot No.43, Basaveshwara Nagar, Opposite BLDE Hospital,
Ashram Road, Vijayapura.

INVESTIGATOR

Name : Dr. Sinchana. A. S
Qualification: M.B.B.S.
Vijayanagar institute of medical sciences, Bellary
Registration No. : 134744
Address : SHREESHA, gundibail, Doddanagudde road,
shivalli village
UDUPI

95

32	JAYASHREE	31	0.5	1	2	225	230	1	2	240	120	90	126	79	131	80	140	77	141	74	138	78	136	70	128	72	126	69	132	76	128	72	124	78	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	8	9	
33	SANGEETA	20	1	2	0	175	190	0.8	1.2	180	150	90	139	86	136	76	129	72	118	64	124	71	130	74	121	66	122	71	113	69	116	72	120	72	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8	
34	SAVITRI	24	0.3	1	0	150	180	1	1.5	170	110	70	116	67	101	57	102	62	98	59	102	60	91	57	93	47	80	48	117	63	130	72	117	70	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	8	9
30	HAKUNTAL	23	0.3	1	0	220	195	1	2	180	130	80	124	72	125	76	123	61	124	59	125	66	124	59	110	50	128	78	126	80	130	72	131	80	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	8	9
36	SAVITHA	23	2	2	0	230	235	0.5	1	226	120	70	139	89	131	76	143	88	139	90	149	89	148	96	139	88	131	76	140	80	137	77	122	75	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	8	9
37	HAGYASHRI	19	1	2	0	120	180	3	4	180	130	80	134	89	133	79	128	83	123	83	122	77	121	73	124	79	125	79	120	85	110	80	120	86	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
38	PRIVANKA	24	1	2	5	210	230	1	3	180	110	70	126	74	121	79	115	89	121	80	126	70	125	65	120	66	117	79	105	61	112	72	114	65	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	6	7
39	KAVERI	21	2	2.5	0	170	220	2	3	240	112	72	130	70	90	60	97	50	110	60	112	67	107	50	105	60	102	46	120	60	113	60	123	72	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
40	IAJESHWAR	23	0.8	1	0	170	195	2	3	210	140	80	130	84	132	80	131	71	126	84	124	45	90	50	90	61	117	58	122	81	120	80	118	70	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
41	UJWALA	38	0.8	1	0	192	240	0.3	1.5	240	130	90	120	80	128	84	129	84	124	86	129	88	130	80	132	91	130	88	123	76	125	81	132	78	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	7	8
42	KAUSHALYA	22	0.8	1	2	190	180	1	1.3	180	150	92	124	75	121	79	130	59	125	77	126	79	128	77	117	74	102	50	127	81	124	78	122	80	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	7	8
43	DIVYA	29	1	2	0	160	180	0.2	1	180	140	90	126	77	127	78	123	73	138	78	129	89	128	77	126	80	125	78	123	72	118	78	121	80	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
44	PRIYA	34	1	2	0	175	190	0.8	1	186	140	100	120	78	110	70	90	60	110	80	120	80	110	90	112	80	121	80	131	78	128	80	126	84	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	7	9
45	RATNA	31	0.8	1	2	228	215	0.5	1	250	120	60	99	64	84	52	92	60	100	60	112	80	121	78	126	82	118	82	120	80	123	90	128	86	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
46	JANGAMMA	29	0.5	1.2	0	250	180	1	3	220	112	70	108	63	102	60	80	55	75	33	90	60	101	62	111	63	108	61	121	72	123	62	126	74	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	7	8
47	REKHA	24	0.5	1	0	160	130	0.8	2	165	140	90	120	52	98	58	110	74	128	75	129	73	125	73	127	69	100	66	125	83	114	79	109	74	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	7	8
48	UJAYALSHW	23	2	5	0	100	90	3	6	120	110	70	110	74	103	65	101	64	103	63	109	74	105	61	106	67	101	58	103	62	108	70	110	68	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
49	KUCHATAI	28	1	2	0	155	170	0.6	1	175	130	70	120	78	110	70	90	60	110	80	120	80	110	90	121	81	131	80	131	78	122	80	126	82	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
50	KAVITHA	32	0.5	1	0	140	174	1	1.5	170	130	90	101	57	102	62	98	57	102	60	91	57	93	47	80	48	117	63	119	74	120	73	113	71	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	8	9
51	HARSHITA	28	1	2	0	220	230	1	3	190	120	80	126	71	121	79	115	89	121	78	126	70	119	82	116	72	118	74	120	80	122	72	124	76	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	8	9
52	ANBKA	22	0.5	1.3	0	190	195	1	1.5	180	120	80	128	82	118	70	100	60	98	55	92	50	102	62	118	68	120	70	130	78	131	86	132	82	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
53	PALLAVI	23	0.8	1	0	150	180	0.5	1	220	120	70	125	83	135	85	134	84	128	84	141	99	130	78	142	95	147	102	146	100	138	101	130	90	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
54	IDYASHREE	21	0.5	1	3	225	210	1	4	240	110	70	100	70	90	60	84	58	92	62	98	60	100	70	114	68	116	58	118	72	120	78	121	72	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	7	8
55	LAKSHMI	27	0.8	1	0	195	210	0.5	1.3	230	112	72	103	52	90	43	86	42	96	60	100	61	105	60	99	57	118	73	122	80	121	70	118	60	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	8	9
56	ROOPA	22	0.5	1	0	185	215	1	3	180	120	80	110	60	112	70	120	80	124	84	130	72	132	72	112	78	130	81	137	100	132	92	128	89	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	7	8
57	POOJA	26	0.8	2	0	166	210	0.5	1	220	130	80	127	78	123	73	138	78	129	82	125	72	126	80	119	79	123	72	118	78	120	76	128	72	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	7	8
58	TULSIBAI	36	0.3	0.8	0	170	220	0.8	2	180	100	70	120	80	111	78	97	47	90	38	86	42	106	58	113	66	127	76	98	59	111	51	100	43	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
59	SANGEETA	26	0.5	1	2	225	230	0.8	2	220	120	80	126	79	131	80	140	77	132	78	136	70	128	72	126	72	110	70	130	80	128	72	124	74	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	8	9
60	PUSHPA	24	2	3	0	170	165	2	6	150	100	80	110	80	102	60	104	59	90	50	86	60	108	80	110	70	118	91	121	74	128	89	130	80	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
61	ASHVINI	19	0.8	1	2	180	220	1	2	180	130	80	124	76	106	70	80	40	90	52	95	47	83	39	100	82	123	91	130	92	136	64	113	60	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
62	KAVERI	21	3	4	0	165	180	2	5	180	140	110	130	80	123	76	116	70	122	76	126	78	130	80	124	76	128	78	114	55	124	60	124	74	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	8	9
63	Siddamma	31	1	1.45	10	200	230	1	2	240	110	70	90	50	80	40	70	32	83	36	86	47	96	52	100	58	108	65	119	80	120	80	118	70	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	PRESENT	7	8
64	Bhagrathi	28	2	2.3	0	180	190	3	3	180	111	55	90	50	88	46	91	60	98	60	100	61	109	80	98	62	98	59	102	62	100	62	106	62	PRESENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	7	8
65	Kavitha	22	1	1.3	0	180	220	0.5	1	180	130	90	124	82	110	66	94	66	106	71	96	54	106	70	150	99	130	86	128	70	120	70	68	PRESENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	PRESENT	ABSENT	8	9	

MASTER CHART – LEVOBUPIVACAINE GROUP

[illegible]

