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A Nurse Practitioner Led Evaluation of Medication Protocols for Children Undergoing Myringotomy Tube Placement

Abstract:

Myringotomy tube placement (BMT) is a common, brief pediatric surgical procedure performed frequently in infants and young children but has limited published protocols for anxiolysis and analgesia. With concern regarding use of the current protocol, especially the use of IM ketorolac administered in the operating room, an interprofessional team led by a nurse practitioner evaluated the effectiveness of Dexmedetomidine (Dex) as a sole medication for both preoperative anxiolysis and perioperative analgesia in this population. The new protocol replaced standard care which included preoperative treatment with Midazolam, intraoperative treatment with IM Ketorolac and PRN Acetaminophen in the PACU. We hypothesized that preoperative intranasal Dexmedetomidine (Dex) as a single alternative medication will provide both anxiolysis and perioperative analgesia compared to our standard treatment.

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The Nemours Children's Hospital IRB reviewed this research study and determined that it met Expedited review criteria.

Key words: Analgesia, Anxiolysis Myringotomy Tubes, Pain management Myringotomy Tubes