

PARACETAMOL IS AN EFFECTIVE FORM OF ANALGESIA FOR POST-OPERATIVE PAIN IN ADULTS

WHAT IS PARACETAMOL?

Paracetamol is an effective form of analgesia for post-operative pain in adults (Bannwarth and Pehourcq, 2003).

When used within its therapeutic range, the pharmacokinetics of paracetamol is linear

Is an effective pain relief if there is consistent and repeated administration over an allocated time frame (Bannwarth and Pehourcq, 2003).

Precautions when administering paracetamol are being aware of patients with hepatic conditions, renal impairment and alcoholic liver

STUDIES ON PARACETAMOL IN POST-OPERATIVE PAIN RELIEF

Toms, McQuay, Derry and Moore, (2012) review of 51 studies found that participants that received the single dose of standard paracetamol, about half achieved a minimum 50% pain relief over a four to six hour period compared to participants who were given a single dose of placebo, only 20% of those noticed any relief of pain.

Macario and Royal's (2010) reviews demonstrated that administering IV paracetamol reduced peoples pain post-operatively, when used in conjunction with opioid analgesia's. This significantly lowered the need in mean opioid usage.

White (2005) study discussed providing a level of analgesia's pre operatively in an attempt to better deal with post-operative pain. White (2005) suggests that paracetamol is the most cost effective, safest and underutilised non-opioid analgesia's on the market

CONCLUSION OF STUDIES

it is apparent that paracetamol is an effective drug in managing adult pain, with the range of data presented demonstrating that over 50% of participants studied found the analgesic to be successful in managing their post-operative pain.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Paracetamol should be the base analgesic drug used post-operatively and then layered with opioids if needed.

By starting with paracetamol as a base, it may reduce the amount of weak and/or strong opioids needed in gaining the end result of a comfortable level of reduced pain for the patient.

By reducing the amount of opioids needed, it will in turn have a better outcome for the patient. Opioids have a wide range of side effects and complications that if can be lessened will have a better outcome for the patient.

PARACETAMOL

