

POSTOPERATIVE ANALGESIA AFTER ADENO-TONSILLECTOMY IN CHILDREN: A ROLL FOR TRAMADOL?

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Objective: evaluating the analgetic effect of tramadol in children after adenotonsillectomy. Design: a prospective, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial. Patients and methods: 175 children, 4 to 8 years of age, undergoing an adeno-tonsillectomy, by using the Sluder guillotine, were treated with tramadol or placebo in addition to paracetamol for analgesia. Pain assessment was performed by using a facial pain score. Heart rate, blood pressure and ventilation rate were recorded, as well as post-operative nausea, vomiting, drowsiness and perspiration. Results: 60 (a) and 120 (b) minutes postoperatively children in the tramadol group report less pain compared to the placebo group [(a)Odds ratio 0,46 (95%CI 0.22-0.96) and (b)Odds ratio 0,24 (95%CI 0.12-0.46)]. The pain score at 180 and 240 minutes postoperatively is also lower in the tramadol group than in the placebo group, but the difference is not statistically significant. Nausea is a serious side-effect of tramadol. Conclusion: tramadol is an effective analgetic in post-operative pain management in children undergoing adeno-tonsillectomy. Nausea is a serious side-effect that needs attention.