

A&I

ANÄSTHESIOLOGIE & INTENSIVMEDIZIN

Offizielles Organ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Anästhesiologie und Intensivmedizin e.V. (DGAI)
Berufsverband Deutscher Anästhesisten e.V. (BDA)
Deutsche Akademie für Anästhesiologische Fortbildung e.V. (DAAF)
Organ: Deutsche Interdisziplinäre Vereinigung für Intensiv- und Notfallmedizin e.V. (DIVI)



Gaucher's disease

Hereditary spastic paraplegia

orphan**a**nesthesia

a project of the German Society
of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

SUPPLEMENT NR. 17 | 2020

OrphanAnesthesia –

ein krankheitsübergreifendes Projekt des Wissenschaftlichen Arbeitskreises Kinderanästhesie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Anästhesiologie und Intensivmedizin e.V.

Ziel des Projektes ist die Veröffentlichung von Handlungsempfehlungen zur anästhesiologischen Betreuung von Patienten mit seltenen Erkrankungen. Damit will OrphanAnesthesia einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Erhöhung der Patientensicherheit leisten.

Patienten mit seltenen Erkrankungen benötigen für verschiedene diagnostische oder therapeutische Prozeduren eine anästhesiologische Betreuung, die mit einem erhöhten Risiko für anästhesieassoziierte Komplikationen einhergehen. Weil diese Erkrankungen selten auftreten, können Anästhesisten damit keine Erfahrungen gesammelt haben, so dass für die Planung der Narkose die Einholung weiterer Information unerlässlich ist. Durch vorhandene spezifische Informationen kann die Inzidenz von mit der Narkose assoziierten Komplikationen gesenkt werden. Zur Verfügung stehendes Wissen schafft Sicherheit im Prozess der Patientenversorgung.

Die Handlungsempfehlungen von OrphanAnesthesia sind standardisiert und durchlaufen nach ihrer Erstellung einen Peer-Review-Prozess, an dem ein Anästhesist sowie ein weiterer Krankheitsexperte (z.B. Pädiater oder Neurologe) beteiligt sind. Das Projekt ist international ausgerichtet, so dass die Handlungsempfehlungen grundsätzlich in englischer Sprache veröffentlicht werden.

Ab Heft 5/2014 werden im monatlichen Rhythmus je zwei Handlungsempfehlungen als Supplement der A&I unter www.ai-online.info veröffentlicht. Als Bestandteil der A&I sind die Handlungsempfehlungen damit auch zitierfähig. Sonderdrucke können gegen Entgelt bestellt werden.

OrphanAnesthesia –

a project of the Scientific Working Group of Paediatric Anaesthesia of the German Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

The target of OrphanAnesthesia is the publication of anaesthesia recommendations for patients suffering from rare diseases in order to improve patients' safety. When it comes to the management of patients with rare diseases, there are only sparse evidence-based facts and even far less knowledge in the anaesthetic outcome. OrphanAnesthesia would like to merge this knowledge based on scientific publications and proven experience of specialists making it available for physicians worldwide free of charge.

All OrphanAnesthesia recommendations are standardized and need to pass a peer review process. They are being reviewed by at least one anaesthesiologist and another disease expert (e.g. paediatrician or neurologist) involved in the treatment of this group of patients.

The project OrphanAnesthesia is internationally oriented. Thus all recommendations will be published in English.

Starting with issue 5/2014, we'll publish the OrphanAnesthesia recommendations as a monthly supplement of A&I (Anästhesiologie & Intensivmedizin). Thus they can be accessed and downloaded via www.ai-online.info. As being part of the journal, the recommendations will be quotable. Reprints can be ordered for payment.

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Projektleitung

Prof. Dr. Tino Münster, MHBA

Chefarzt
Klinik für Anästhesie und
operative Intensivmedizin
Krankenhaus Barmherzige
Brüder Regensburg
Prüfeninger Straße 86
93049 Regensburg,
Deutschland

Tel.: 0941 369-2350

E-Mail: Tino.Muenster@barmherzige-regensburg.de

orphan**a**nesthesia

Anaesthesia recommendations for Gaucher's disease

Disease name: Gaucher's disease

ICD 10: E75.2

Synonyms: sphingolipidosis (lysosomal storage disorder, deficiency of glucocerebrosidase)

Disease summary: Gaucher's disease is one of the most common lysosomal storage disorders with defects in the enzyme glucosylceramidase (glucocerebrosidase). The disease is caused by mutations in the GBA gene on chromosome 1 (autosomal recessive) and affects both sexes. The incidence is estimated to be 1:40,000 in Europe. Most commonly, the disease is differentiated into a non-neuronopathic form and a neuronopathic form. Thus, patients may present with symptoms early during childhood or later in life. Patients may develop organ damage with some manifestations in the coagulation system relevant to anaesthesia, an impaired immune competence, reduced lung function and elevated pulmonary arterial pressure in adults. A specific therapy with eliglustat may interact with peri-operative medication and should be paused for 48h before surgery. Neuroaxial anaesthesia, regional-anaesthesiological nerve blocks and general anaesthesia can be performed safely in these patients with individual risk assessment.

Medicine is in progress



Perhaps new knowledge

Every patient is unique

Perhaps the diagnosis is wrong



Find more information on the disease, its centres of reference and patient organisations on Orphanet: www.orpha.net

► **Citation:** Tafelski S: Gaucher's disease. Anästh Intensivmed 2020;61:S284–S289.
DOI: 10.19224/ai2020.S284

Typical surgery

Patients with Gaucher's disease may present for all types of surgery. However, as the disease can lead to splenomegaly and was also described to be associated with femoral head necrosis and bone pathology, spleen extirpation and musculoskeletal surgery are typical for these patients.

Type of anaesthesia

The anaesthesiologically relevant aspects in Gaucher's disease are related to

- Haematopoietic system with anaemia, thrombocytopenia, impaired coagulation capacity and leucopenia with impaired immune competence,
- Impaired lung function,
- Impaired CNS function including epilepsy and dysphagia,
- Pulmonary arterial hypertension in adult patients, e.g. receiving enzyme replacement therapy.

Based on current knowledge, all types of anaesthesia can be performed safely. The choice of anaesthesia should depend on the specific manifestations of the individual patients. If possible, regional anaesthesia should be preferred especially in patients with pulmonary complications but should be evaluated carefully against the background of potential coagulopathy. In general, anaesthesia, volatile and intravenous hypnotics can be administered. In patients with a history of coagulopathy or abnormal laboratory coagulation tests, neuroaxial anaesthesia should be avoided.

Necessary additional pre-operative testing (beside standard care)

Standard pre-operative measures to evaluate patients and an interdisciplinary case review (e.g. involving surgeon, anaesthesiologist and haematologist) will allow individualised decision-making for additional diagnostic testing. This should also focus on a detailed patient history of clinical signs of bleeding (e.g. gum bleeding, heavy menstruation bleeding, spontaneous haematoma) and obtaining blood tests. Standard coagulation tests (partial thromboplastin time, INR, blood count) can be expanded to identify impaired haemostasis like thrombocytopathy (thromboelastography) or deficiency of coagulation factors.

Furthermore, the pulmonary and cardiovascular capacity should be evaluated to assess metabolic equivalents and signs for cardiac decompensation (as described in guidelines for evaluation of adults before non-cardiac surgery). In specific cases, ECG and transthoracic sonography should be performed to determine ejection fraction, valvular defects (like tricuspid insufficiency) and elevated pulmonary-arterial pressure. Specific attention should also be paid to the medication intake of patients as some patients may be treated with eliglustat (Cerdelga®) which may interact with drugs during anaesthesia.

Particular preparation for airway management

There is currently no evidence of specific preparations necessary in these patients.

Particular preparation for transfusion or administration of blood products

Standard preparation for scheduled surgery is advisable. However, in patients with clinical evidence of coagulopathy or those with thrombocytopenia, pre-operative measures are to be discussed interdisciplinary with surgeons, anaesthesiologists and patients. For patients with an increased risk of bleeding complications, blood products should be prepared.

Particular preparation for anticoagulation

Gaucher's disease seems not to be associated with thrombotic events but has some risks for increased bleeding. In patients with clinical evidence of coagulopathy or those with thrombocytopenia, an individualised risk assessment is necessary. If there is an increased risk for peri-operative thrombotic events, anticoagulation treatment is indicated as standard of care.

Particular precautions for positioning, transportation and mobilisation

Gaucher's disease is associated with musculoskeletal deformities that will be evaluated in pre-operative assessment. Based on that, individual measures are to be planned. However, there are no specific points to consider in these patients according to current evidence.

Interactions of chronic disease and anaesthesia medications

Some patients will be treated with specific agents approved for Gaucher's disease. Specific caution is necessary in patients receiving eliglustat (Cerdelga®), a drug acting as highly specific inhibitor of enzymes for glucocerebroside syntheses. This substrate-reducing therapy may interfere with peri-operative drug therapy. Eliglustat is metabolised strongly by hepatic CYP2D6 enzymes and to a lesser extent by CYP3A4. Thus, all inhibitors of these pathways may increase the toxicity of eliglustat and should be avoided. Indeed, not only CYP2D6 inhibitors but also inducers or substrates of cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes may affect the metabolism of the drug. For concomitant treatment, data bases for drug interaction may be a source of further information as are clinical pharmacologists.

For peri-operative use, this interaction may affect the following drugs (examples):

- 5HT3-antagonists (ondansetron),
- Beta blockers,
- Opioids like codeine and tramadol,
- Anti-infectives (rifampicin, erythromycin, voriconazole, posaconazole, clarithromycin, ciprofloxacin, etc.).

Interaction with eliglustat may cause significant adverse events, with long-QT-syndrome and sequelae like Torsade-de-pointes-tachycardia.

Due to the circulating half-life of eliglustat of 7-9 hours, the drug should be stopped about 48 hours before surgery.

There are no specific anaesthetic implications for patients treated with enzyme replacement therapy.

Anaesthetic procedure

Gaucher's disease does not alter standard anaesthetic procedures. In patients with coagulopathy, haemostasis should be optimised pre-operatively.

Particular or additional monitoring

The choice of monitoring and additional measures peri-operatively should be adapted according to the patient's individual conditions.

Possible complications

Peri-operative bleeding complications should be anticipated. In patients with concomitant use of eliglustat, the risk for cardiac events may be increased. In patients with Gaucher's disease, there is an increased risk of post-operative infections, thus, antibiotic prophylaxis should be administered.

Post-operative care

The choice of post-operative care should be adapted to the patient's individual condition. In patients with a high risk of bleeding, post-operative pain management should evaluate the choice of drugs used including increased risk related to NSAIDs use.

Disease-related acute problems and effect on anaesthesia and recovery

There are no specific points to consider.

Ambulatory anaesthesia

The choice between ambulatory versus in-hospital care should be adapted to the patient's individual conditions.

Obstetrical anaesthesia

The choice of anaesthesia in obstetric surgery and to support birth follows an individual risk assessment. Due to potential interactions with the coagulation system and with physiologic changes in pregnancy, blood test results should be available to assess the current status of platelet count and coagulation parameters. There is some evidence in literature that neuroaxial anaesthesia like epidural anaesthesia or spinal anaesthesia are possible modalities during birth. However, the risk of peri-operative bleeding could be increased.

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Date last modified: **November 2017**

This recommendation was prepared by:

Author

Sascha Tafelski, Anaesthesiologist, University hospital Campus Virchow Klinikum and
Campus Charité Mitte, Berlin, Germany
Sascha.Tafelski@charite.de

Disclosure The author has no financial or other competing interest to disclose. This recommendation was unfunded.

This recommendation was reviewed by:

Reviewers

Olga Levchenko, Anaesthesiologist, National Research Center for Hematology
Moscow, Russian Federation, Russia
levchenkokp@rambler.ru

Jeff Szer, Disease Group Lead: Non-malignant haematology, Parkville Integrated
Haematology Service, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
jeff.szer@mh.org.au

Disclosure The reviewers have no financial or other competing interest to disclose.

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Deutsche Gesellschaft
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Carolin Sofia Kopp B.A.
Korrespondenzadresse: Roritzerstraße 27 |
90419 Nürnberg | Deutschland
Tel.: 0911 9337812 | Fax: 0911 3938195
E-Mail: anaesth.intensivmed@dgai-ev.de

Verlag & Druckerei

Aktiv Druck & Verlag GmbH

An der Lohwiese 36 |
97500 Ebelsbach | Deutschland
www.aktiv-druck.de



Geschäftsführung

Wolfgang Schröder | Jan Schröder |
Nadja Schwarz
Tel.: 09522 943560 | Fax: 09522 943567
E-Mail: info@aktiv-druck.de

Anzeigen | Vertrieb

Pia Engelhardt
Tel.: 09522 943570 | Fax: 09522 943577
E-Mail: anzeigen@aktiv-druck.de

Verlagsrepräsentanz

Jürgen Distler
Roritzerstraße 27, 90419 Nürnberg
Tel.: 0171 9432534 | Fax: 0911 3938195
E-Mail: jdistler@bda-ev.de

Herstellung | Gestaltung

Pia Engelhardt | Stefanie Triebert
Tel.: 09522 943570 | Fax: 09522 943577
E-Mail: ai@aktiv-druck.de

Titelbild

Gestaltung: Klaus Steigner
Paumgartnerstraße 28 | 90429 Nürnberg
E-Mail: mazyblue@klaus-steigner.de
www.klaus-steigner.de

Erscheinungsweise 2020

Der 61. Jahrgang erscheint jeweils zum
Monatsanfang, Heft 7/8 als Doppelausgabe.

Bezugspreise (inkl. Versandkosten):

• Einzelhefte	30,- €
• Jahresabonnement:	
Europa (ohne Schweiz)	258,- €
(inkl. 7 % MwSt.)	
Schweiz	266,- €
Rest der Welt	241,- €

Mitarbeiter aus Pflege, Labor, Studenten und Auszubildende (bei Vorlage eines entsprechenden Nachweises)

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Indexed in **Current Contents®/Clinical
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Medical Documentation Service;
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VINITI: Russian Academy of Science.**

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ADDRESS

German Society of Anaesthesiology and
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Ursula Homberg
Roritzerstrasse 27 | 90419 Nuremberg | Germany
Tel.: +49-911-9337828 | Fax: +49-911-3938195
Email: uhomberg@orphananesthesia.eu