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Pallister-Hall syndrome

**Paroxysmal nocturnal
haemoglobinuria**

orphan**a**nesthesia

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

SUPPLEMENT NR. 10 | 2022

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 Orphan Anesthesia 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.

Bisher in A&I publizierte Handlungsempfehlungen finden Sie unter:

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orphan^aesthesia

Anaesthesia recommendations for Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria

Disease name: Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH)

ICD 10: D59.6

Synonyms: Marchiafava-Micheli disease

Disease summary: Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH) is an acquired clonal haematopoietic stem cell disease caused by somatic mutations in the PIGA gene (Xp22.1), encoding a protein involved in the biosynthesis of the glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchor. The mutation occurs in one or several haematopoietic cells and leads to a lack (total or partial) of all GPI-anchored cell membrane proteins (the most important being CD55 and CD59). PNH had a prevalence of up to 1.6/100,000, a 5-years mortality about 35 % and a median survival of 10–5 years. After bone marrow transplant, the majority of deaths occur within the first years of transplantations while the probability to survive at 2 years is 56 %. Symptoms and complications of PNH are caused by the deficiency of CD55 and CD59, proteins regulating and stabilising the complements cascade, on PNH erythrocytes. The lack of CD55 and CD59 is responsible for a complement mediated intravascular haemolysis mainly associated to haemoglobinuria, thrombosis and bone marrow failure. Furthermore, cell-free plasma haemoglobin in PNH leads to depletion of nitric oxide causing smooth muscle dystonia and altering the vascular tone. For these reasons, in a clinical context, haemolysis of PNH is associated with anaemia, weakness, dyspnoea, fatigue, renal impairment, need for transfusions, pulmonary hypertension, abdominal pain and thromboembolic complications.

The main anaesthetic concerns in PNH consist in preventing the activation of complement cascade during the peri-operative period. Any stressful situations may activate or exacerbate the complement cascade.

An optimal peri-operative management of patients with PNH includes the use of eculizumab, a novel antibody blocking the terminal complement cascade, blood cells transfusion and antibiotic prophylaxis, the avoidance of hypoxaemia, acidosis, dehydration and drugs known to activate complement cascade.

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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

Typical surgery

Literature review is limited to case reports of PNH patients presenting cholecystectomy, Caesarean section, coronary artery bypass, cardiac valve repair and peripheral vascular surgery.

PNH patients have an increased risk of venous and arterial thromboembolic complications or haemorrhages in different organs and systems of the body, so surgical and/or invasive procedure may take place in these situations.

Type of anaesthesia

Literature reported case reports about the use of general anaesthesia for different surgical procedure in PNH patients. General anaesthesia in PNH patients must eliminate the stress response to surgical stimuli, achieving a deep anaesthetic and analgesic level.

General anaesthesia in PNH patients should avoid or minimise:

- 1) complement activation
- 2) hypoxaemia
- 3) acidosis
- 4) dehydration.

Regional anaesthesia may be difficult to apply in PNH patients depending on their degree of thrombocytopenia and their need of immediate anticoagulation in case of acute exacerbation of this disease or thromboembolic complications.

Necessary additional pre-operative testing (beside standard care)

PNH is associated to aplastic and/or iron-deficiency anaemia, haemolysis and thrombosis. Patients should have full blood count, coagulation screening including d-dimers, blood chemistry test including LDH, electrolytes, kidney and liver function. LDH is a very good parameter to estimate the ongoing haemolytic activity. A urine test is helpful to assess the presence of an active haemoglobinuria. An analysis of complement components, as C3 and C4, might be useful to evaluate the basal complement activity before the surgical procedure.

PNH is associated with cerebral, abdominal, pulmonary and liver complications due to its pathogenesis. As a result, further investigations will be needed in case of previous complications or focused symptoms. For example, in case of recurrent abdominal pain or thrombosis of abdominal vessels, a (duplex) ultrasound evaluation of the site should be done. In case of suspected or confirmed pulmonary hypertension, more specific tests to assess functional or haemodynamic impairment is required (BNP, echocardiograph).

Particular preparation for airway management

Difficult swallowing and breathing may appear during haemolytic crisis in PNH patients.

Literature has not reported cases of difficult airway management in PNH.

The main concern about the airway management in PNH patients is to apply a good analgesia to prevent the stress response to endotracheal intubations.

However, if a difficult airway is suspected, a protocol according to national and international guidelines should be applied.

Particular preparation for transfusion or administration of blood products

PNH patients required blood transfusions due their state of anaemia. After transfusions haemolysis may occur in PNH patients when using ABO incompatible plasma or prolonged storage of blood cells, although with lower incidence.

Washing blood transfusions could be avoided by using group-specific fresh blood and blood products. However, if patients need a large volume of blood within a short period of time, e.g. in case of acute bleeding or emergency situations, the role of washed red cells needs to be reconsidered.

Particular preparation for anticoagulation

Prophylaxis with heparin or LMWH should be used during the peri-operative period. Aggressive anticoagulation with heparin or LMWH in combination with eculizumab should be used in an acute thrombotic episode. However, when the platelet count is less $10 \times 10^9/L$, anticoagulation is contraindicated while it should be used with a platelet count greater than $50 \times 10^9/L$. In patients with platelet counts between 30 and $50 \times 10^9/L$, a reduced dose of LMWH is probably appropriate.

Particular precautions for positioning, transportation and mobilisation

Not reported.

Interactions of chronic disease and anaesthesia medications

Eculizumab, a human monoclonal antibody approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and EMA, which binds C5 preventing its activation to C5b and thereby inhibiting MAC formation, is used as a standard treatment of symptomatic PNH.

For PNH patients chronically treated with eculizumab, surgery should be planned right after the last infusion of eculizumab (e.g. next day). Eculizumab administration during the peri-operative period may give a better control of complement activity. This monoclonal antibody may elicit synergistic effects on complement regulation, however, it has no direct effect on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of anaesthetic drugs. It is suggested that the reduction of complement levels in the peri-operative period may be due to a synergistic effect of anaesthetic management and monoclonal antibody therapy. Extra dosing of eculizumab should be considered for PNH patients with breakthrough haemolysis/uncontrolled haemolysis.

Anaesthetic procedure

Antibiotic prophylaxis could be administered before starting surgery. For general anaesthesia, propofol in lipid emulsion is suitable for induction because it is not associated with complement activation. Since haemoglobinuria is frequently associated to dark colour urine, long-time infusion of propofol causing urine discoloration should be discouraged in PNH patients. Sevoflurane should be suitable for anaesthesia maintenance because it showed that this volatile anaesthetic significantly reduces complement activation and the levels of complement fragment. N₂O should be avoided because of its myelosuppressive effects. Analgesia during surgery may be obtained with remifentanyl TCI or intermittent fentanyl with the aim to firmly reduce the stress response to surgical stimuli. Neuromuscular blockade should be considered using drugs with a lower rate of cross-reactivity and anaphylaxis. Accurate fluid management should be obtained with crystalloids, avoiding colloids because of their effects on complement activation.

Particular or additional monitoring

Bispectral index or other non-invasive cerebral monitoring may be useful to assess the level of anaesthesia.

Neuromuscular relaxation monitoring using patterns of electrical nerve stimulation such as train-of-four, tetanic or post-tetanic count, double burst stimulation, are controversial in PNH because their continuous or alternate stimulation may trigger complement activation. Furthermore, it is better to evaluate neuromuscular relaxation by means of a clinical or capnographic curve.

When needed according to the level of surgical risks, it is better to use noninvasive monitoring instead of invasive monitoring to avoid further complication from complement and coagulation activation.

The analysis of haemolytic parameters, especially LDH levels and haemoglobin, is useful to evaluate the haemolytic and complement activity during surgery.

Possible complications

Haemolytic crisis and -aemia, haemoglobinuria, infection, thromboembolic complication, acute bleeding may complicate the post-operative period.

Post-operative care

Post-operative analgesia is needed to avoid post-operative pain. Pain may be treated with NSAIDs and opioids according to pain levels and patient characteristics.

A urine test after surgery is needed to assess possible haemoglobinuria.

Analysis of LDH levels is useful to evaluate the level of haemolysis and complement activity after the surgical procedure.

Full blood count and coagulation screening including d-dimers are useful to check for any possible exacerbation of anaemia, infection and thrombosis.

Disease-related acute problems and effect on anaesthesia and recovery

Fulminant haemolysis, thrombosis of abdominal vessels, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, sinus-vein thrombosis, meningococcal infection during eculizumab treatment.

Ambulatory anaesthesia

Ambulatory anaesthesia should be done in non-symptomatic and well-controlled PNH patients in low-risk surgery, in spite of which the patients should be protected against all causes of complement activation such as pain, anxiety, infection, radiocontrast agents, etc.

Obstetrical anaesthesia

Pregnancy is possible for women with PNH, but it is potentially hazardous for mother and infant. Pregnancy in PNH patients is risky and leads to complications such as cytopenia, transfusion dependency, thrombosis, need of anticoagulation, eculizumab treatment and immunosuppression (for cytopenia due to bone marrow failure).

Literature reported cases of Caesarean section in PNH patients treated with general or regional anaesthesia. The choice of the type of anaesthesia must take into account the risk of acute bleeding, coagulation disorders and the need of a high dose of anticoagulation in PNH thrombocytopenic patients.

Vaginal delivery is still possible in PNH patients, but the analgesic administration by epidural catheter must consider the risk of anticoagulation dosage and coagulation disorders. Literature reported a case of vaginal delivery in which a regimen of regular pethidine injections was used to minimize labour stress.

Blood transfusion, anticoagulation and eculizumab may reduce the risk and complications of fulminant haemolysis and thrombosis.

A close control of blood counts, coagulation screening including d-dimers and a clinical evaluation should be performed after delivery to prevent and reduce further complications. Need for anticoagulation is recommended during pregnancy and at least 6 weeks postpartum.

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