

Postoperative Pain Treatment

Matsuko MATSUNAGA¹⁾, Hiroe YOTSUI²⁾, Keiichi NITAHARA²⁾
and Kazuo HIGA²⁾

¹⁾ *Surgical Center of Fukuoka University Hospital*

²⁾ *Department Anesthesiology Fukuoka University School of Medicine*

Abstract: Postoperative pain is one of factors, which cause postoperative complications. The conventional intermittent intramuscular injection of analgesics, which is given when patients ask for them, is usually unsatisfactory because the time interval between the injections of analgesics is too long to obtain satisfactory pain relief. Sixty to eighty percent of patients who receive conventional intramuscular analgesics are thus assumed to suffer from unnecessary severe postoperative pain. Since there is a 5-10 fold difference in the doses of opioids to relieve postoperative pain among patients, the optimal dose of opioids to relieve postoperative pain for each patient cannot be predicted. Recent progress in patient-controlled analgesia, in which each patient administers analgesia for himself or herself whenever he or she feels pain, has now made it possible to effectively control postoperative pain. The proper use of analgesics, and the prevention and early detection of the side effects of patient-controlled analgesia are essential to for safer and more satisfactory postoperative pain relief. The monitoring of pain relief, as well as the respiratory rate, pulse rate, blood pressure, and body temperature, is also mandatory in every postoperative patient. The active treatment of postoperative pain reduces the rate of patients who suffer from moderate to severe pain to only 10% of all patients and also prevents postoperative pulmonary and cardiovascular complications.

Key words: acute pain service, postoperative pain, epidural analgesia, patient-controlled analgesia