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An Introduction to Causal Diagrams for Anesthesiology Research

This article reviews some basic principles of causal inference and the use of causal diagrams to understand and address different forms of bias in anesthesia research.

A. L. Gaskell, J. W. Sleigh......951

Perioperative Medicine

CLINICAL SCIENCE

♠ ♦ Machine Learning Prediction of Postoperative Emergency

Department Hospital Readmission

V. V. Mišić, E. Gabel, I. Hofer, K. Rajaram, A. Mahajan......968

Hospital-specific 30-day surgical readmission models using machine learning techniques provide clinically usable predictions when applied to future patients. A parsimonious approach limiting which data elements are considered performs as well as more comprehensive models.

\(\rightarrow\) Hydromorphone Unit Dose Affects Intraoperative Dosing:

An Observational Study

B. D. Ershoff, T. Grogan, J. C. Hong, P. A. Chia, E. Gabel,

The investigators used a natural experiment in which their institution switched from 2-mg vials of hydromorphone to 1-mg vials, and then back to 2-mg vials. Using a sophisticated segmented regression analysis, they show that patients were far more likely to be given 1 mg hydromorphone when smaller vials were provided. The contents of single-patient-use vials influences drug use and might be used to guide practice.

- ⊕ ♦ Multimodal Analgesic Regimen for Spine Surgery:
- A Randomized Placebo-controlled Trial

K. Maheshwari, R. Avitsian, D. I. Sessler, N. Makarova, M. Tanios, S. Raza, D. Traul, S. Rajan, M. Manlapaz, S. Machado, A. Krishnaney, A. Machado, R. Rosenguist, A. Kurz......992

Adult spine surgery patients were randomized to placebo or to the combination of acetaminophen, gabapentin, ketamine, and lidocaine. The Quality of Recovery was similar in each group, as were pain scores and opioid consumption.











ON THE COVER: Various multimodal analgesic approaches have been proposed for spine surgery, but none of these approaches have been carefully evaluated. In this issue of ANESTHESIOLOGY, Maheshwari et al. evaluated the effect of using a combination of four nonopioid analgesics versus placebo on Quality of Recovery, postoperative opioid consumption, and pain scores. They found that an analgesic pathway based on preoperative acetaminophen and gabapentin, combined with intraoperative infusions of lidocaine and ketamine, did not improve recovery in patients who had multilevel spine surgery. Cover Illustration: A. Johnson, Vivo Visuals.

· Maheshwari et al.: Multimodal Analgesic Regimen for Spine Surgery: A Randomized Placebo-controlled Trial, p. 992

Spectral and Entropic Features Are Altered by Age in the Electroencephalogram in Patients under Sevoflurane Anesthesia

M. Kreuzer, M. A. Stern, D. Hight, S. Berger, G. Schneider, J. W. Sleigh, P. S. García......1003

Older age is associated with a shift to a less predictable electroencephalogram, which could inform intraoperative monitoring approaches.

 Source-level Cortical Power Changes for Xenon and Nitrous Oxide induced Reductions in Consciousness in Healthy Male Volunteers

A. Pelentritou, L. Kuhlmann, J. Cormack, S. Mcguigan, W. Woods, S. Muthukumaraswamy, D. Liley1017

Magnetoencephalography and electroencephalography recordings at increasing equivalent dose of xenon and nitrous oxide show distinct effects of these two drugs on neural activity. While xenon increased low-frequency delta and theta activity, nitrous oxide induced alpha power depression. These observations suggest that, despite their high affinity to the *N*-methyl-D-aspartate receptor, xenon and nitrous oxide are acting *via* distinct mechanisms to modulate neural activity.

 Sevoflurane and Parkinson's Disease: Subthalamic Nucleus Neuronal Activity and Clinical Outcome of Deep Brain Stimulation

When compared to local anesthesia, sevoflurane-based general anesthesia decreased beta-frequency oscillations and induced coherent lower frequency oscillations in the subthalamic nucleus of patients with Parkinson's disease undergoing electrode placement for deep brain stimulation. These sevoflurane-induced changes in electrical activity patterns did not reduce electrode placement accuracy or clinical outcome. These observations suggest that electrode placement for deep brain stimulation under sevoflurane anesthesia is a feasible clinical option.

Prophylactic Intrathecal Morphine and Prevention of Post–Dural Puncture Headache: A Randomized Double-blind Trial

F. M. Peralta, C. A. Wong, N. Higgins, P. Toledo, M. J. Jones, R. J. McCarthy......1045

In a single-center, randomized, double-blind study, there was no evidence that intrathecal morphine prevented post—dural puncture headache.

Mild Acute Kidney Injury after Noncardiac Surgery Is Associated with Long-term Renal Dysfunction: A Retrospective Cohort Study

A. Turan, B. Cohen, J. Adegboye, N. Makarova, L. Liu, E. J. Mascha, Y. Qiu, S. Irefin, B. J. Wakefield, K. Ruetzler, D. I. Sessler......1053

Patients with mild postoperative kidney injury (stage I) after noncardiac surgery had estimated 2.4 times higher odds of having long-term renal dysfunction compared with patients without postoperative kidney injury. A quarter of patients who had stage I acute kidney injury postoperatively still had stage I kidney injury 1 to 2 yr later, and an additional 11% had even worse renal function.

BASIC SCIENCE

 Dantrolene Ameliorates Impaired Neurogenesis and Synaptogenesis in Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Lines Derived from Patients with Alzheimer's Disease

Y. Wang, G. Liang, S. Liang, R. Mund, Y. Shi, H. Wei......1062

Survival, proliferation, and differentiation of neuronal progenitors derived from patients with Alzheimer's disease are impaired when compared with healthy counterparts. Chronic exposure of induced pluripotent stem cells, derived from patients with Alzheimer's disease, to dantrolene improves the survival, proliferation, and differentiation of these cells.

Desflurane Anesthesia Alters Cortical Layer–specific
Hierarchical Interactions in Bat Cerebral Cortex

A. G. Hudetz, S. Pillay, S. Wang, H. Lee......1080

In vivo intracortical electrophysiologic recordings from the visual cortices of male rats reveal that desflurane disrupts cortical layer—specific neuronal interactions in local brain circuits. These observations suggest that neuronal connectivity changes in local cortical circuits may contribute to large-scale cortical functional disintegration as a mechanism of anesthetic-induced unconsciousness.

 Comparison of Neonatal and Adult Fibrin Clot Properties between Porcine and Human Plasma

K. A. Nellenbach, S. Nandi, A. Kyu, S. Sivadanam, N. A. Guzzetta, A. C. Brown......1091

Fibrinogen concentration and functionality in plasma collected from piglets paralleled those observed in plasma collected from human neonates. Fibrin network structure was highly aligned in both neonatal species and highly branched in adults of both species. Fibrin network stiffness and degradation patterns in both neonatal species were substantially similar as they were in adults of both species. The *ex vivo* addition of several procoagulant therapies augmented fibrin network properties of diluted piglet plasma.

Critical Care Medicine

CLINICAL SCIENCE

Myocardial Function during Low versus Intermediate Tidal Volume
 Ventilation in Patients without Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

T. G. V. Cherpanath, F. D. Simonis, B. J. Bouma, R. H. de Bruin-Bon, R. M. Determann, N. P. Juffermans, M. Gama de Abreu, P. Pelosi, A. S. Neto, J. A. B. Groeneveld, M. J. Schultz, W. K. Lagrand........1102

What is not known is if lower *versus* intermediate tidal volume mechanical ventilation is also associated with improved systolic and diastolic left ventricular and right ventricular myocardial function. This study of 42 mechanically-ventilated patients who did not have acute respiratory distress syndrome found that lower tidal volume mechanical ventilation was associated with increased right and left ventricular systolic function but not improved diastolic function.

Usefulness of Parasternal Intercostal Muscle Ultrasound during Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation



M. Dres, B.-P. Dubé, E. Goligher, S. Vorona, S. Demiri, E. Morawiec, J. Mayaux, L. Brochard, T. Similowski, A. Demoule......1114

Parasternal intercostal muscle thickness can be measured with ultrasound with good interobserver reproducibility. Parasternal intercostal muscle thickening was responsive to the level of ventilator assistance and significantly higher (*i.e.*, increased) in mechanically ventilated patients with diaphragm dysfunction. The pressure-generating capacity of the diaphragm, the diaphragm thickening fraction, and the parasternal intercostal muscle thickening fraction were all significantly associated with failure of a spontaneous breathing trial in mechanically ventilated patients.

BASIC SCIENCE

Does Iso-mechanical Power Lead to Iso-lung Damage? An Experimental Study in a Porcine Model

F. Vassalli, I. Pasticci, F. Romitti, E. Duscio, D. J. Aßmann,

H. Grünhagen, F. Vasques, M. Bonifazi, M. Busana, M. M. Macrì,

L. Giosa, V. Reupke, P. Herrmann, G. Hahn, O. Leopardi,

O. Moerer, M. Quintel, J. J. Marini, L. Gattinoni1126

The authors studied 42 healthy sedated pigs ventilated in the prone position for 48 h, controlling anesthetic level, hemodynamics, and temperature. Three ventilatory strategies (high tidal volume, high respiratory rate, or high positive end-expiratory pressure [PEEP]) were studied at two levels of mechanical power (15 or 30 J/min, regulated by manipulating the other component variables). Measurements included hemodynamics, lung mechanics, gas exchange, lung histology, and lung weight. High PEEP, as expected, had the greatest adverse hemodynamic impact. For all strategies, similar degrees of histologic lung injury and extravascular lung water accumulation occurred by 48 h, despite different time courses. Paradoxically, a greater degree of alveolar edema occurred at lower mechanical power, perhaps explained by different hemodynamic patterns that favored or reduced extravascular fluid accumulation. These data suggest that over time, the integrated effects resulting from high tidal volume, high respiratory rate, or high PEEP are more important than the direct and immediate consequence of any one of them alone. Ventilatorinduced lung injury should be considered holistically in the context of whole-body physiology rather than as an isolated effect on the lung alone.

 Severe Hypoxemia Prevents Spontaneous and Naloxone-induced Breathing Recovery after Fentanyl Overdose in Awake and Sedated Rats

P. Haouzi, D. Guck, M. McCann, M. Sternick, T. Sonobe, N. Tubbs......1138

The level of hypoxemia reached during fentanyl-induced apnea in unsedated rats affected their ability to "autoresuscitate" and to respond to naloxone. Fentanyl-induced apnea in urethane-anesthetized rats was not associated with spontaneous recovery when Pao₂ decreased below approximately 16 mmHg during apnea and could not be reversed with naloxone.

Pain Medicine

CLINICAL SCIENCE

 Drug Enforcement Agency 2014 Hydrocodone Rescheduling Rule and Opioid Dispensing after Surgery

M. D. Neuman, S. Hennessy, D. S. Small, C. Newcomb,

L. Gaskins, C. M. Brensinger, D. N. Wijeysundera,

B. T. Bateman, H. Wunsch......1151

Data derived from a large insurance database for a group of 10 common ambulatory orthopedic surgeries suggested that hydrocodone dispensing increased after rescheduling for the 30-day period after surgery. Data from the same source showed no difference in hydrocodone prescribing from 90 to 180 days after surgery.

 Opioid Fills for Lumbar Facet Radiofrequency Ablation Associated with New Persistent Opioid Use

D. L. Southren, S. Moser, H. Abu-Amara, P. Lin, A. A. Schack, V. Gunaseelan, J. F. Waljee, C. M. Brummett......1165

More than one in five opioid-naïve patients filled a prescription for opioid after minimally painful procedures. Patients who filled opioid prescriptions had more than twice the odds of persistent opioid use.

BASIC SCIENCE

A Central Amygdala–Ventrolateral Periaqueductal Gray Matter
 Pathway for Pain in a Mouse Model of Depression-like Behavior

W. Yin, L. Mei, T. Sun, Y. Wang, J. Li, C. Chen, Z. Farzinpour, Y. Mao, W. Tao, J. Li, W. Xie, Z. Zhang......1175

Chemogenetic experiments in a mouse model of depression reveal the involvement of a neural circuitry between the central amygdala and the periaqueductal gray in nociception. In this mouse model, pathologically increased activity of inhibitory γ -aminobutyric acid—mediated neurons in the central amygdala will result in the inhibition of inhibitory γ -aminobutyric acid—mediated neurons in the periaqueductal gray. This, in turn, will lead to the activation of glutamatergic cells involved in periaqueductal graymediated nociception. These findings provide a framework for how the central amygdala—periaqueductal gray circuitry may play a role in coping with nociception in depressive states.

Countering Opioid-induced Respiratory Depression in Male Rats with Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor Partial Agonists Varenicline and ABT 594

J. Ren, X. Ding, J. J. Greer......1197

Pre- or coadministration of varenicline or ABT 594 with opioids markedly reduced the degree of respiratory depression they caused in rats. Varenicline and ABT 594 reversed moderate to severe respiratory depression produced by fentanyl without interfering with opioid-induced suppression of pain. Administration of ABT 594 and varenicline coadministered with a low dose of naloxone reversed respiratory depression and prevented death caused by a bolus lethal dose of fentanyl or the combination of fentanyl and diazepam.

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