Effect of Thiopentone and Propofol on Intraocular Pressure

C. B. Sridhar¹, M. Dinesh Kumar²

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The impact of anaesthetic drugs on intra-ocular pressure needs to be known when ophthalmic surgery is to be carried out, especially on patients with high intra-ocular pressure. This study was designed to evaluate and compare the intraocular pressure response by injecting thiopentone 2.5% Vs propofol 1% as induction agents in patients undergoing cataract surgery.

Materials and methods: Forty patients who were planned for cataract surgery were divided into two group. One group was given thiopentone and other propofol. Intra-ocular pressure was monitored

Results: The mean intra-ocular pressure in thiopentone group was 13.38 and 13.31 at 3 and 6 minutes. The mean intra-ocular pressure of propofol group was 11.46 and 11.45 at 3 and 6 minutes. Propofol treated group exhibited significant reduction in intra-ocular pressure compared to thiopentone group

Conclusion: Usage of propofol will be beneficial to patients who undergo cataract surgery with elevated intraocular pressure.

Keywords: Thiopentone and Propofol

INTRODUCTION

Regulation of intraocular pressure and management of its consequences pose a unique challenge to the anesthesiologist during eye surgery. General anesthesia has been in use for ophthalmic surgery since 1847. The normal intra-ocular pressure varies from 10-20mmHg. Higher intra-ocular pressure is associated with risk of expulsion of intra-ocular contents on opening the eye.¹ The usual effect during maintenance of general anesthesia is to produce a fall in the intraocular pressure.² Local anesthesia was first introduced in the year 1884 by Carl Koller.³ Though local anesthesia for ophthalmic surgery has been accepted as a routine for more than a century,⁴ precise control of intra-ocular pressure is an accepted advantage of general anesthesia. The impact of anesthetic drugs on intra-ocular pressure needs to be known when ophthalmic surgery is to be carried out, especially on patients with high intra-ocular pressure. With the above in mind this study was designed to evaluate and compare the intraocular pressure response by injecting thiopentone 2.5% Vs propofol 1% as induction agents in patients undergoing cataract surgery.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

After getting institutional ethical clearance forty patients with informed consent were included in the study. Healthy patients of either sex and aged between 50-65 years undergoing cataract surgery at Saveetha Medical College, were included for this study. Inclusion criteria are patient undergoing cataract surgery. Exclusion criteria are associated systemic diseases, glaucoma and patients on drugs which reduce intra-ocular pressure. All the patients were premeditated with Injection Diazepam 0.2mg/kg, 45 minutes before surgery. Intraocular pressure in normal eye was measured for all the patients using schiotz tonometer. Intra-ocular pressure was measured in supine position only. Patients were randomly divided into two groups of twenty each. Group I received injection Thiopentone 2.5% at 5 mg/kg body weight intravenously and Group II received injection Propofol 1% at 2mg/kg body weight intravenously for sedation before administering local anaesthetic for cataract surgery. After injection, intraocular pressure was measured at 3 minutes and 6 minutes in non-surgery eye in both the groups. Three values of intra-ocular pressure were recorded. Two way ANOVA analysis of variance was done to measure the difference from baseline value in each group and between groups. Bonferronic multiple comparison method used to compare P-value.

RESULTS

The mean intra-ocular pressure in group I was found to be 16.55 and in group II it was 16.37, before administration of thiopentone or propofol respectively. Table 1 shows the observations recorded in both the groups at 3 minutes and 6 minutes after administration of drug. The mean intra-ocular pressure in group I was 13.38 and 13.31 at 3 and 6 minutes. The mean intra-ocular pressure of group II was 11.46 and 11.45 at 3 and 6 minutes. The P-value for intra-ocular pressure reduction within group and between group was <0.001(highly significant). Hence within group, significant reduction in intra-ocular pressure was observed between 0 and 3 minute observation in both groups. Significant variations in intra-ocular pressure measurement were observed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group I (thiopentone)</th>
<th>Group II (Propofol)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 minutes</td>
<td>16.55</td>
<td>16.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 minutes</td>
<td>13.38</td>
<td>11.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 minutes</td>
<td>13.31</td>
<td>11.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-1: Comparison of intra-ocular pressure before and after administering thiopentone and propofol

¹Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesia, Saveetha Medical College, ²Consultant, Department of Anaesthesia, Madras Medical Mission, Chennai, India.

Corresponding author: Dr. C.B. Sridhar, Shanthi Health Center, Opp to Sengalammad Koil, Sembulivarum, Chennai-600067, India

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between groups at 3 minute, and 6 minutes. Propofol treated group exhibited significant reduction in intra-ocular pressure compared to thiopentone group. (Group I). Two way ANOVA analysis of variance (Table 2) reveal significant difference in reduction of intraocular pressure within group and between groups. Bonferronic multiple comparisons showed that significant reduction of intra-ocular pressure occurs at 3 min and 6 min. However there was no difference between 3min and 6 min recording.

**DISCUSSION**

Intra-ocular pressure is a measurement of the fluid pressure inside the eye. Normal eye pressure usually ranges from 10 to 21 mm Hg with an average of 16 mm Hg. Pressure that is consistently above 21 mm Hg indicates ocular hypertension. If the intra-ocular pressure is elevated, it can cause pressure within the eye to increase and damage the optic nerve. Temporary variation in pressure is usually well tolerated in the normal eyes. However, transient episodes of increased intraocular pressure in patients with low ophthalmic artery pressure may jeopardize retinal perfusion and cause retinal ischemia.

The results in our study clearly show that propofol reduces intraocular pressure significantly more than thiopentone. This is in agreement with the study made by Guedes (1988). He observed significant change in intra-ocular pressure even in smaller dose. He also observed significant reduction of intra-ocular pressure up to 7 minutes. Our study also showed a significant reduction of intra-ocular pressure after administering propofol even in smaller dose. He too observed significant reduction in intra-ocular pressure in patients treated with propofol compared to those who received thiopentone. Neel (1995) also observed significant reduction in intra-pressure after inducing agents on intraocular pressure during ophthalmic surgery was investigated. It was observed that propofol reduces intraocular pressure significantly more than thiopentone. Usage of propofol will be beneficial to patients who undergo cataract surgery with elevated intraocular pressure.

**CONCLUSION**

Comparative performance of thiopentone and propofol as inducing agents on intraocular pressure during ophthalmic surgery was investigated. It was observed that propofol reduces intraocular pressure significantly more than thiopentone. Usage of propofol will be beneficial to patients who undergo cataract surgery with elevated intraocular pressure.

**REFERENCES**


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