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# THE CUMULATIVE INCIDENCE OF AWARENESS AND PAIN DURING ANESTHESIA: COMPARING ISOFLORANE BASED GENERAL ANESTHESIA VERSUS PROPOFOL-ALFENTANIL MIX

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**Introduction:** Intraoperative awakening and feeling pain is an implicit memory that usually causes conscious reminding of the events during surgery. Long-term deleterious effects such as mental disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder usually occurs in the patients with this complication.

**Methodology:** A total of 400 patients in the age group 16 to 70 years old, entered the study and are double-blind randomly divided into two groups of 200 patients each. All patients were under the same conditions of induction of general anesthesia and mechanical ventilation. The first group to sustain anesthetic inhaled Isoflurane gas and the second group was injected mixture of the propofol and alfentanil. The studied patients in two stages (in the recovery room and 4 hours after the end of the operation) were under the investigation. The standard questions designed by Brice, 1970 used to assess the presence of awareness during anesthesia.

**Results:** The incidence of intraoperative awareness and pain in the propofol-alfentanil group (7.5%) was higher than Isoflurane

group (0.5%). Duration of anesthesia in the both groups had a significant effect on recall of events and pain during anesthesia. The time of interview to identifying awareness and consciousness during anesthesia had an impact importance role while, patients respond differently to questions in the recovery room and 4 hours after surgery.

**Conclusion:** The early interview in the recovery room may occur unbiased results of awareness during anesthesia due to the influence of anesthetic drugs and pain pressure caused by surgery also general problems. It may show its incidence less or more than the actual rate. The results of this study suggested that sustain of general anesthesia by Isofloran gas had resulted less awareness and feeling pain during anesthesia. Carefully controlling of anesthetics by monitoring the anesthesia process, considering the age of patients and duration of anesthesia also selection of appropriate drugs for maintenance of general anesthesia in surgery, could reduce complications of awareness and feeling pain during anesthesia.

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