Anesthetic Implications of Prone Position Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy in a Deformed DWARF

Shreya Shah¹, Pinakin Gujjar², Sona Dave³, Deepa Suvarna⁴

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Abnormal body habitus can lead to difficulties with patient positioning, tracheal intubation and regional anaesthesia.

Case report: We report the anesthetic management of a 47 year old male with short stature and extreme bony deformity complaining of bilateral flank pain. Percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL) under general anesthesia in prone position was done. Perioperative course was uncomplicated and patient was discharged without any untoward event on day seven. This report highlights anesthesia related issues surrounding extreme skeletal deformities and prone positioning during PCNL.

Conclusion: Prone positioning is associated with physiological changes and number of complications and safe use of the prone position in this case requires an understanding of both issues. In practice providing anesthesia in such a patient even for a minimally invasive surgical intervention requires us to “think out of the box”. Thus the use of modern anesthetic agents and relevant anesthesia techniques had increased the margin of safety for our patient.

Keywords: Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy, Prone Position, Bony Deformity, Short Stature, General Anesthesia, Desflurane

INTRODUCTION

The physiognomy and the frequently associated physiologic abnormalities of the respiratory, circulatory and neurologic systems of dwarfs dictate they must be considered differently.¹ Genitourinary abnormalities have been reported to occur in 43% of patients with congenital scoliosis.² Patients with kyphoscoliosis are at an increased risk of urolithiasis due to abnormal kidney ascent, renal tract deviations, poorly draining urinary systems and higher incidence of urinary tract infections.³ An understanding of pathophysiology, precise anesthesia planning and modern anesthetics in these patients could increase margin of safety and improve outcome.

CASE REPORT

A 47 year male, weighing 27 kg, and height of 97.5 cm presenting with intermittent bilateral flank pain since 1 to 2 years. He had severe long bone deformity (Figure-1). This condition ran in the family, as his father and children were affected too. He was also a known asthmatic on medications. He was diagnosed to have renal calculi thus posted for a minimally invasive surgical intervention requires us to

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¹Assistant Professor, ²Professor and Head of Department, ³Professor, ⁴Assistant Professor, Department of Anaesthesiology, B.Y.N.L Charitable Hospital, Mumbai Central, Mumbai –400008, India

Corresponding author: Dr Shreya Shah, 11, Rajendra Prakash Apartment, 3rd Floor, near Ration Office, Sevaram Lalwani Road, Mulund (West), Mumbai 400080

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Bleeding diathesis have lead to unpredictable spread of drugs. The high level of regional block required for this surgery could be detrimental to the already compromised pulmonary functions. Our patient had normal facial features with short neck and restricted terminal neck extension. Short neck and cervical spine abnormalities could contribute to difficult laryngoscopy in dwarfs. The sternal prominence due to pectus carinatum can interfere with midline positioning of the laryngoscope. Occasional abnormalities of skull base may limit neck extension which rarely interferes with laryngoscopy and intubation in patients. The clinical impression of an anatomically abnormal upper airway or of tracheal narrowing should be confirmed preoperatively by one or more of the following studies i.e. lateral neck radiography, xerography, tomography, CT scanning or MRI technique. In our case mask ventilation and intubation was not difficult. Short handle laryngoscope may be useful. Guidelines for the selection of the appropriately sized ETT for dwarfs are unclear. It was also difficult to determine the tube depth by the common Owen and Cheney technique due to his short stature. Hence FOB was used to adjust the tube depth such that the cuff was beyond the cords and prevent endobronchial intubation. Unintentional endobronchial intubations are the most prevalent cause of oxyhemoglobin desaturation during an otherwise uneventful general anesthesia. Restrictive lung disease with reduced vital capacity and functional residual capacity characterizes thoracic dystrophy and kyphoscoliosis. These reduced lung volumes predispose towards airway closure accompanied by subsequent ventilation/perfusion (V/Q) mismatching, increased alveolar-arterial gradient and recurrent scattered atelectasis. Spirometry, blood gas, hematocrit and serum electrolyte determination as well as diffusion capacity measurements can help in quantifying the extent of underlying pulmonary involvement. The interpretation of spirometric measurement of lung volumes is complicated in dwarfs because there are no reference standards for these measurements in short trunks dwarfs. Pulmonary hypertension leading to Cor pulmonale is probably the most common cardiovascular disturbance that develops in dwarfs. Thus the anesthesia management in these patients must be planned such that the various anesthetic agents and various other stimuli that aggravate pulmonary arterial vasoconstriction can be avoided and yet adequate cardiac output and coronary perfusion pressure is maintained. Automated BP cuffs may be hazardous in dwarfs as over inflation may result in fractures. Bleeding diasthesis have been known to occur from qualitative platelet abnormality in these patients. Careful positioning of patient is required during anaesthesia and surgery. Prone positioning reduces cardiac index due to reduced venous return, direct effects on arterial filling and reduced left ventricular compliance secondary to increased thoracic pressure. Mean arterial pressure (MAP) is maintained by increased systemic vascular resistance (SVR), and pulmonary vascular resistance (PVR) also is increased in the majority of patients. The choice of anaesthetic may influence the degree to which these changes occur.
There is an increase in functional residual capacity (FRC) in prone position due to reduction of cephalad pressure on the diaphragm and reopening of atelectatic segments which was advantageous in our patient. Airway resistance is not altered by change in position. The increase in FRC and alteration in the distribution of both ventilation and perfusion throughout the lung leads improved ventilation/perfusion matching and thus improved oxygenation in the patient. Tracheal compression may occur in prone position due to thoracic scoliosis. It is seen that longitudinally placed bolsters are better to avoid hypotension. In our case bolsters needed to be placed horizontally due to pectus carinatum and hemodynamics were well preserved. The airway is more protected from regurgitation in prone position. Decrease in MAP due to increased intrathoracic pressures in our patient could offset his balance, as there would be a subsequent increase in pulmonary pressures too. Recent work suggests that anaesthetic technique could affect hemodynamic variables in the prone position. A greater fall in mean arterial pressure (MAP) is seen in total iv anaesthesia than with inhalational agents. Hemodynamic stability and early recovery is most important part of anaesthesia maintenance in these patients. Desflurane causes a decrease in blood pressure depending on concentration. It causes a transient increase in heart rate depending on the dose, which is related to the stimulation of the sympathetic system. Desflurane confers profound protection against renal ischemia-reperfusion injury compared with pentobarbital or ketamine anaesthesia by attenuating inflammation. This may have significant clinical implication regarding choice of volatile anaesthetic in already damaged kidney. Residual effects of volatile anaesthetic may impair ventilator drive of dwarfs in the recovery room. In this regard desflurane is advantageous because of their more rapid washout and their minimal effects on hypoxic sensitivity at sub anaesthetic concentration. Desflurane is a weak trigger for malignant hyperthermia. Effective analgesia will reduce the incidence of postoperative pulmonary complications. Weight adjusted appropriate drug dosages need to be given in these patients. In our case, the rotation and curvature of spine caused modifications of anatomic relationships between ribs and spine, kidneys and the surrounding organs and a limited percutaneous exposure of the renal cavities making puncture difficult and time consuming. This also increased the risk of hydropneumothorax which was ruled out intraoperatively by visualizing bilaterally clear CP angles under fluoroscopy. Also other reported complications are colonic injury, renal vascular and parenchymal injury and septicemia.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, an understanding of the multiple abnormalities that affect dwarfs will ensure the safe delivery of anesthesia in these patients. Monitoring and anaesthetic techniques for the case should be dictated by the type of dwarf, the anatomic and physiologic aberrations of different organ systems and the nature of the surgical procedure. Prone position has its advantages and disadvantages in these patients. Safe use of desflurane is possible as they offer multiple advantages in these group patients.

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