Comparison of gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen used for pre-emptive analgesia in patients undergoing double-port thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery: a randomized, double-blind, controlled trial.

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Abstract
Background This study was designed to determine whether gabapentin is not inferior to the oxycodone-acetaminophen group used as pre-emptive analgesia in reducing post-operative pain. The post-operative pain of patients undergoing thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery, a routine operation procedure, is also a clinical problem that urgently needs to be further explored. We hypothesized that gabapentin is not inferior to oxycodone-acetaminophen. Methods Ninety patients were randomly divided into group A, n=30; group B, n=30; and group C, n=30. Patients in group A received oral gabapentin (300 mg) 2 h before surgery, similarly patients in group B received oral oxycodone-acetaminophen (330mg); Group C did not take any oral drugs; all patients were given self-controlled intravenous analgesia after surgery. NRS scores post-operative, opioid consumption 48 hours post-operative, analgesic-related adverse events, post-operative chronic pain after 2 months, were recorded. Results The NRS scores and opioid consumption 48 hours post-operative of intervention groups were significantly lower than the control group, and did not increase analgesic-related adverse events. The incidence of chronic pain 2 months post-operative in groups A and B was significantly lower than group C. Conclusion Oral gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen alleviated the pain post-operative, reduced opioid consumption post-operative, promoted the recovery.

Background
Thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery due to advantages, such as less traumatic compared with open surgery, has become a more mature surgical approach compared with traditional open pulmonary surgery in comprehensive hospitals; however, although double-port thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery is less traumatic, the post-operative pain is still severe due to tissues and intercostal nerve injury. Intense pain stimulation during the peri-operative period not only triggers various adverse stress reactions in the body, such as metabolic disorders, immunosuppression, and hemodynamic abnormalities[1], increasing the incidence of peri-operative complications. Post-operative pain will limit deep breathing and effective coughing, which antagonizes the recovery of lung function and will increase the incidence of pulmonary complications, thus extending the length of the ICU stay. Post-operative activity limitations also increase thrombogenesis[2], and post-operative pain also increase
the psychological burden of patients. Previous studies have disclosed that unalleviated post-operative pain was associated with various complications such as deep veins thrombosis, increased heart rate, and blood pressure[3][4]. Thus, a better peri-operative analgesic protocol should relieve patients from post-operative pain, reduce the incidence of post-operative complications, and promote post-operative recovery. At present, the prevalent post-operative analgesia protocol primarily consists of opioid-based post-operative continuous intravenous analgesia; however, overuse of opioid-based post-operative continuous intravenous analgesia may lead to post-operative adverse events, which is not conducive to rapid post-operative recovery and is not in accordance with the principle of enhanced recovery after surgery (EARS). Therefore, we sought to develop a better analgesic protocol. Pre-emptive analgesia is not a concept refers to a treatment that starts before surgery and is intended to prevent central sensitization caused by surgical incisional injury and other inflammatory responses to surgery[5][6] proposed by international scholars in the early 20th century. There are a large number of clinical drugs used for pre-emptive analgesia, mainly including local anesthetics, opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonists, and alpha 2-adrenergic receptor agonists. Gabapentin is a structural analog of gamma-aminobutyric acid, which are widely distributed in the central and peripheral nervous systems, inhibits calcium influx, and reduces the release of excitatory neurotransmitters in pain pathways. In recent years, scientific research has confirmed that gabapentin, antiepileptic drug, has a good pre-emptive analgesic effect during spinal surgical procedures and lower abdominal surgery[7][8]. Oxycodone-acetaminophen is a prescription tablet of oxycodone hydrochloride and acetaminophen. According to reports, oxycodone can prevent the conduction of harmful stimulation induced by central nervous impulses. Simultaneously, before the harmful stimulus reaches the central nervous system, the excitability of the central nervous system is inhibited and the sensitization of the central nervous system is suppressed, thus achieving a good analgesic effect. Acetaminophen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory and analgesic drug that has an inhibitory effect on the activity of Cox-2. There are no case-control studies involving the pre-emptive analgesia of gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen in patients undergoing double-hole thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery. After fully
searching and reviewing the relevant literature combined with clinical observations, this study selected a clinical case-control study to compare gabapentin or oxycodone-acetaminophen combined with post-operative self-controlled continuous intravenous analgesia and single post-operative self-controlled continuous intravenous analgesia. A preliminary evaluation of the effects of gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen for pre-emptive analgesia in such patients was performed. The essence of this study is the comparison of the effects of non-opioid and opioid used as pre-emptive analgesia. Therefore, a preliminary clinical basis for the use of advanced analgesia in patients undergoing double-port thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery is provided. We hypothesized that gabapentin is not inferior to oxycodone.

Methods

Patients

This randomized controlled trial enrolled patients from the Second Xiangya Hospital of Central South University from 1 May 2019 to 30 June 2019 who underwent double-port thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery for lung disease. Patients who met the criteria (vide infra) and signed the written informed consent were randomly divided into gabapentin (group A, 30 cases), oxycodone-acetaminophen (group B, 30 cases) and the control group (group C, 30 cases) using Excel 2010 (Microsoft Inc. Redmond, WA, USA) to generate random numbers. Because of the invasive nature of the interventions, neither the trial participants nor the investigators were masked to group allocation. The administration of pre-emptive analgesics was performed by nurses on the ward, and intra-operative anesthesia management and post-operative follow-up were performed by two anesthesiologists respectively. Mutual assistance was not allowed. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Second Xiangya Hospital of Central South University and was registered in China clinical trial registry.

The inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) patients with pulmonary lesions confirmed by imaging examination; (2) surgery which could be completed by double-port thoracoscopy based on a perioperative evaluation; (3) patients ≥ 18 years and ≤ 70 years of age.

The exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) patients who simultaneously were participating in other
clinical research; (2) patients with organs (such as heart, lung, liver, and kidney) with serious
dysfunction; (3) patients who are allergic to gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen or similar
drugs; (4) patients with language communication barriers; (5) patients with a history of drug abuse;
(6) patients with a mental illness; (7) patients who cannot understand the NRS; (8) patients who were
born with no pain sensation; (9) patients with a history of chronic pain; (10) patients in poor general
health; (11) patients with asthma or other serious respiratory diseases; (12) patients in whom the
operative method was changed; (13) patients with peri-operative massive blood loss or shock;
(14) patients who died during observation period; and (15) patients who failed to complete evaluation
because of severe post-operative complications.

Procedures

Two hours before surgery, the nurses on the ward administered the pre-emptive analgesic drugs in
accordance with the established pre-emptive analgesic scheme. Patients in group A received oral
gabapentin (300 mg) 2 h before surgery, similarly patients in group B received oral oxycodone-
acetaminophen (330 mg); Group C did not take any oral drugs; all patients were given self-controlled
intravenous analgesia after surgery. After entering the operating room, peripheral venous channel
was routinely established. Vital signs and EEG bispectral index (BIS) was monitored. All patients in the
three groups received same intravenous induction cocktail (midazolam [0.06 mg/kg], sufentanil
[0.5 ug/kg], vecuronium [0.1 mg/kg], and etomidate [0.2 mg/kg]), cis-atracurium (0.1 mg/kg/h) to
maintain intra-operative muscle relaxation, and the depth of anesthesia was maintained by
remifentanil and propofol. The BIS was maintained between 40 and 60 during the surgery. Sufentanil
can be appropriately added during the operation according to the depth of anesthesia. After the end
of the operation, the double-bronchial catheter should be replaced with a single-lumen endotracheal
catheter, therefore the continuous injection of remifentanil, propofol and cis-atracurium was not be
stopped until the single-lumen endotracheal catheter replacement was completed. The post-operative
patient self-controlled intravenous analgesia pump was configured in the same manner.

Sufentanil (1.5 ug/kg) and ondansejoon (16 mg) diluted to a final volume of 100 ml in normal saline. The
parameters of the analgesic pump included a 2 ml·h⁻¹ continuous infusion volume (0.03 μg·kg⁻¹·h⁻¹,

\[ \text{concentration} = \frac{\text{dosage}}{\text{volume}} \]
a 2 ml bolus, a 10 min lockout time, and an 8 ml·h⁻¹ maximum in-fusion volume. If the post-operative pain score at rest was ≥4, the patient was given self-controlled analgesia firstly, and if there was no relief 10 min after 1 bolus dose, the patient was given supplementary analgesics. The mean arterial pressure (MAP) and heart rate (HR) were recorded upon entry to the operating room (T0), at the time of the skin resection (T1), at the time of the thoracoscopy was placed in the chest (T2), 1h post-operatively (T3), 2h post-operatively (T4), 4h post-operatively (T5), 8h post-operatively (T6), 12h post-operatively (T7), 16h post-operatively (T8). The length of the operation, length of anesthesia, and extubation time were recorded. In addition, we recorded the primary endpoint including the NRS scores at rest and while coughing at 4, 8, 12, 24, 48h post-operative, intra-operative propofol and remifentanil consumption, opioid consumption post-operative; the secondary endpoint including the amount of time out of bed on the first post-operative day, the awake time due to pain during the first night post-operative, the frequency of patient self-controlled analgesia within 48 h, first time to remedy analgesia post-operative, and the length of the ICU stay post-operative, the length of the hospital stay post-operative, and the incidence of analgesic-related adverse events such as post-operative agitation, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, respiratory depression (RR<10 and pulse oxygen saturation<94% on oxygen inhalation), the incidence of post-operative chronic pain 2 months post-operative were recorded.

**Statistical analysis**

All statistical analyses of the data were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics V21.0. The sample size in each group was 30 patients, and an α=0.05 (statistically significant level) and a 1-β=0.8 test power were set. One-way analysis of variance was used for comparison between groups, and one-way repeated measures analysis of variance was used for comparison within groups. The chi-square test was used to compare the count data between groups. A P < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

**Results**

Ninety patients were included in this study, including group A (n=30), group B (n=30) and group C (n=30). Two patients in group A received general anesthesia combined with a nerve block, 1 patient
in group B received frequent post-operative ventricular premature loss, and 1 patient in group C was converted to an open thoracotomy. Twenty-eight, twenty-nine, twenty-nine patients respectively in group A, B, and C completed the study. The comprehensive standard of the experimental report is shown in Figure 1.

There were no statistically significant differences in gender composition, age, ASA classification, body mass index (BMI), loss of follow-up rate, hypertension, and diabetes among the three groups (P>0.05), as shown in Table 1.

There was no significant difference in the NRS scores of the three groups at 4h at rest (P>0.05), the NRS scores of groups A and B at 4h when coughing were significantly lower than group C (P<0.05), while there was no significant difference between groups A and B (P>0.05); the NRS scores at 8h, 12h, 24h and 48h at rest and while coughing were significantly lower in groups A and B than group C (P<0.05); there was no significant difference between groups A and B (P>0.05), as shown in Figure 2 and Table 2; intra-operative propofol consumption in groups A and B was significantly lower than group C (P<0.05); intra-operative propofol consumption in group B was lower than group A (P<0.05); the intra-operative consumption of remifentanil in groups A and B was significantly lower than group C (P<0.05); there was no significant difference between groups A and B (P>0.05), as shown in Table 3; The opioid consumption post-operative in the intervention groups was significantly lower than the control group (P<0.05), as shown in Table 4.

There was no significant difference in the peri-operative HR and MAP between the three groups (P>0.05), as shown in Table 5 and Table 6; there was no significant difference in the operative period, anesthesia period, and extubation time (P>0.05), as shown in Table 7; there was no significant difference in the length of hospital stay (P>0.05) between in the three groups, while the post-operative length of the ICU stay in groups A and B was significantly shorter than group C (P<0.05), as shown in Table 8; the awaken times due to pain on the frist post-operative night in groups A and B were significantly less than group C (P<0.05); there was no significant difference between groups A and B (P>0.05); the amount of time out of bed on the first post-operative day in groups A and B were significantly longer than group C (P<0.05), the amount of time out of bed on the first post-operative
day in group B was significantly longer than group A (P<0.05); the frequency of self-controlled analgesia within 48 h after surgery in groups A and B were significantly less than group C (P<0.05), there was no significant difference between groups A and B (P>0.05); there was no significant difference of frist time to remedy analgesia post-operative between the groups A, B and C (P>0.05), as shown in Figure 3 and Table 4; there was no significant difference in the incidence of post-operative dysphoria, respiratory depression, dizziness, weakness, and nausea or vomiting in the three groups (P>0.05); the incidence of chronic pain in groups A and B 2 months post-operative was significantly lower than group C (P<0.05), there was no significant difference between groups A and B (P>0.05), as shown in Table 9.

Discussion
Thoracic surgical incisions are characterized by traumatic injury to the intercostal nerves and tissues. The resulting nerve damage is often irreversible and is an important cause of post-operative acute and chronic pain. Pre-emptive analgesia methods have been used alone or in combination for peri-operative analgesia. The meta-analyses performed by Clifk-s [9] and Ong et al [10] showed that pre-emptive analgesia interventions reduce post-operative pain scores and post-operative remedial analgesia. Indeed, some studies have demonstrated the benefits of gabapentin during the peri-operative period and confirmed that gabapentin has a good analgesic effect in spinal surgical procedures and lower abdominal surgery [5]. Similarly, gabapentin has been shown to reduce pain scores and analgesics as an adjuvant analgesic drug during oral surgery [11]. Furthermore, oxycodone-acetaminophen has been shown to have a good analgesic effect after oral surgery [12]. The meta-analysis conducted by Jiaqi et al [13] concluded that taking a single dose of pregabalin or gabapentin before surgery has a significant effect on reducing opioid consumption and post-operative pain. The meta-analysis conducted by Liu et al [14] showed that oral administration of oxycodone-acetaminophen pre-operatively may have a good analgesic effect in plastic and cosmetic surgeries. Young [15] reported significant efficacy in oral pain after surgery with butorphanol/acetaminophen and oxycodone/acetaminophen. In this study we also showed that gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen, when used as pre-emptive analgesia in patients undergoing double-hole
Thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery, were safe and effective.

Alayed et al examined the evidences in various databases and concluded that preoperative gabapentin not only decreased the visual analogue score but also reduced the incidence of nausea and vomiting[16]. Tomar GS [17] evaluated the analgesic effects of three different doses (400mg, 800mg, 1200mg) of oral gabapentin after inguinal hernia under spinal anesthesia, and found that gabapentin from 400mg to 1200mg, with increasing dose, the side effects are even more serious but the analgesic effect does not increase. Pandey et al[18], in their study between gabapentin (300 mg) and tramadol (100 mg) in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy, concluded that the pre-emptive use of oral gabapentin significantly decreases post-operative pain and requirement of rescue analgesia in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. A study conducted by Kochhar A[19] found that a single pre-dose of pregabalin (150 mg) or gabapentin (300 mg) was equally effective in relieving pain as part of multimodal treatment after laparoscopic cholecystectomy and there are no side effects. A study conducted by Kang HS[20] found that the most suitable dose of gabapentin in reducing the optimal dose of fentanyl after gynecological surgery was 300 mg. In addition, the bioavailability of gabapentin decreases with increasing dose; therefore, we chose gabapentin(300mg) as the experimental dose. Kogan A1 et al[21] found that oxycodone-acetaminophen (5mg / 325mg) has better analgesic effect and less side effects than sustained-release oxycodone (10mg) in oral surgery.

EARS anesthesia. Davis KM et al[22] found that oral analgesia with oxycodone-acetaminophen may offer superior pain after cesarean delivery with fewer side-effects as compared with morphine patient-controlled analgesia. A meta-analysis [23] showed that high doses of oxycodone-acetaminophen were associated with an increase in analgesic-related adverse events, but these adverse events were often described as mild or moderate and were not associated with withdrawal. Therefore, we chose oxycodone-acetaminophen(330 mg) containing oxycodone(5mg) and acetaminophen(325mg).

Data from the current study indicated that using oral gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen as pre-emptive analgesia did not cause significant hemodynamic fluctuations whether pre-, intra- or post-operative. Therefore, the use of gabapentin or oxycodone-acetaminophen for pre-emptive analgesia did not delay recovery after general anesthesia in the absence of statistical differences.
between operative time and anesthesia time. From this study we may speculate that the use of pre-emptive analgesia can indirectly reduce the incidence of pulmonary complications in the intervention patients due to the decrease of length of ICU stay. Of note, there were no statistical differences in the length of hospital stay between the three groups of patients. We speculate that part of the reason may be that the patients are not discharged from the hospital on weekends. It has been shown that pre-administration of gabapentin reduced the consumption of opioids within 24 h after surgery [24]. It has also been shown that ibuprofen, when combined with oxycodone-acetaminophen, is effective in treating chronic pain and reducing the consumption of narcotic analgesics [25]. This finding is consistent with our findings, which indicated that pre-operative oral gabapentin (300mg) or oxycodone-acetaminophen(330 mg) reduced the consumption of intra-operative propofol, remifentanil and opioids consumption post-operative. The results are also consistent with the findings reported by Steinberg [26], suggesting that the use of gabapentin reduces the required dose of general anesthetic drugs. Moreover, the results coincide with the findings reported by Alayed et al[16]. A number of studies have confirmed that pre-emptive analgesia can effectively reduce post-operative pain scores [9][10][13]. Similarly, the results from this study, suggested that the intervention groups received more adequate analgesia in the early post-operative period than the control group, and there was no statistical difference in pain scores between gabapentin(300mg) and oxycodone-acetaminophen[(oxycodone 5mg) and (acetaminophen 325)]. This finding can be explained by that administration of small doses of analgesics before pain stimulation, thus blocking the nociceptive effect, enhancing post-operative analgesia, and relieving pain. Early ambulation is a crucial link for the post-operative recovery and can increase a patient’s vital capacity and decrease lung complications for patients undergoing thoracoscopic lung surgery. Of note, our results revealed that oxycodone-acetaminophen is more effective than gabapentin when used as pre-emptive analgesia,especially post-operative analgesia with activities.. Pain has been shown to be associated with poor sleep quality, awakenings, and a shorter sleep time [27]. The relationship between pain and sleep disorders has been verified in some studies and the evidence of relationships of pain with sleep quality, reduced sleep time, lower sleep efficiency, and more awakenings has been determined[28]
Several nights of poor sleep has been shown to decrease pain thresholds[30]. Gabapentin(300mg) or oxycodone-acetaminophen[(oxycodone 5mg) and (acetaminophen 325mg)], when used as pre-emptive analgesia combined with post-operative intravenous analgesia, can improve sleep quality equally early after surgery. Farzi [31] reported that gabapentin or tramadol can effectively reduce post-operative pain without any side effects. For severe pain, the early oral administration of analgesia is safe and effective. Compared with the tramadol group, the incidence of adverse reactions was lower in the oxycodone-acetaminophen group [32]. It has also been confirmed that peri-operative oral gabapentin effectively reduces post-operative pain scores, anesthetic consumption, and nausea and vomiting [16]. A meta-analysis conducted by Grant [33] (44 studies, n = 3489) also revealed that gabapentin is associated with a reduction in post-operative nausea and vomiting. Richards et al[34][35] showed that oxycodone-acetaminophen, when used in orthopedic patients, has the characteristics of an analgesic effect and few adverse reactions. Tiippana [36] conducted a meta-analysis involving 22 consecutive randomized clinical comparative studies on the application of gabapentin and pregabalin during the peri-operative period to evaluate the effect of pre-operative oral gabapentin on post-operative analgesia, which revealed that gabapentin effectively reduces post-operative pain, opioid consumption, and opioid-related adverse events after surgery. This is consistent with our results [which the morphine consumption in the intervention group was statistically less than the control group. However, no statistically significant difference in the incidence of nausea and vomiting, including agitation, fatigue, and dizziness, existed between the intervention and control groups in the current study, which may be explained by the dose of gabapentin(300mg) we selected did not reduce the incidence of nausea and vomiting. At the same time, we concluded that oxycodone-acetaminophen did not increase post-operative analgesia-related adverse events in the context of enhanced peri-operative analgesia. Therefore, it can be seen from this study that gabapentin (300 mg) and oxycodone-acetaminophen[(oxycodone 5mg) and (acetaminophen 325mg)] decrease the post-operative pain scores equally in patients undergoing double-port thoracoscopic pulmonary surgery without increasing post-operative adverse-related reactions.
ERAS has become a popular management mode for contemporary surgical procedures that aims to reduce peri-operative complications, accelerate post-operative recovery, and shorten the hospital stay [37]. For patients undergoing thoracic surgery, a better peri-operative analgesic protocol is to relieve patients from post-operative pain, reduce the incidence of post-operative complications, promote the early activities of patients, reduce post-operative atelectasis, decrease post-operative pulmonary infections, and promote recovery. Although it has been clearly confirmed in this study that pre-operative oral gabapentin and oxycodone-acetaminophen, when used as pre-emptive analgesia and combined with post-operative self-controlled continuous intravenous analgesia in patients undergoing double-port thoracoscopic lung surgery, are able to provide a better peri-operative analgesia method; however, this study had several shortcomings. Referring to the previous literature, experimental groups recorded the chronic pain rate 4 months, 6 months, or even longer after surgery, but the chronic pain rate was only recorded 2 months after surgery in the current study due to time constraints. The time to remove the tracheal tube was generally long in all three groups. There may be three reasons. First, the anesthetist was asked to replace the double lumen bronchial catheter with a single lumen endotracheal tube after completion of thoracic surgery, which is more convenient for airway management post-operatively. Therefore, infusion of cis-atracurium, propofol, and remifentanil continues until the single-lumen endotracheal tube replacement has been done. Second, because of different indications for extubation between thoracic surgeons and anesthesiologists, the indications for extubation in the thoracic care unit were overly cautious. Due to the shortage of researchers, no professional anesthesiologist was deployed to the thoracic care unit to oversee the extubation. Third, the chest surgery intensive care unit is understaffed and there is a shortage of staff in the intensive care unit, thus tracheal tube extubation was delayed. When we are doing clinical research on clinical analgesia, we should fully consider the individual differences of patients, such as age and gender; however, the complexity of the operation, the length of the operation, and the extent of the surgery cannot be ignored and will inevitably affect the analgesic effect. Our medical workers have to consider some scientific methods to minimize the impact of these factors. In China, the visual analog scale method is widely used to evaluate pain. This method marks the corresponding position of pain
by the patient. The physician evaluates pain according to the position marked by the patient. This method is subjective and the test result partially affects the psychological make-up of the patient.

Conclusions
In summary, pre-emptive analgesia with gabapentin(300mg) and oxycodone-acetaminophen[(oxycodone 5mg) and (acetaminophen 325)] equally reduced the opioids consumption post-operative, decreased post-operative NRS scores, improved recovery, reduced the incidence of chronic pain 2 months after surgery, thus improved the quality of prolonged life for the patients. So pre-emptive analgesia of gabapentin(300mg) and oxycodone-acetaminophen[(oxycodone 5mg) and (acetaminophen 325)] combined with post-operative self-controlled continuous intravenous analgesia is a safe and effective analgesic method.

Abbreviations
ASA: America Society of Anesthesiologist; BMI: Body Mass Index; HR: Heart Rate; MAP: Mean Arterial Pressure; NRS: Numerical Rating Scale

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The research protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of the Second Xiangya Hospital of Central South University, Changsha, China(Number:2019-104), and all the patients signed the written informed consent voluntarily. And this study adheres to CONSORT guidelines.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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**Authors’ contributions**

This research was accomplished by three co-authors. The contribution of each author are as follows: XJL was involved in designing the study, accomplishing the work of postoperative follow-up, collecting the most of the data, and drafting the manuscript and instructed the design of the research protocol; LL participated in designing the intraoperative part of the research protocol and performed the general anesthesia processes and participated in designing the recruitment criteria and patient recruitment processes; JMS was involved in designing the postoperative part of the research protocol and assisted XJL and LJZ to finish postoperative follow-up. All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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**Tables**

Due to technical limitations, the tables have been placed in the Supplementary Files section.

**Figures**
100 patients were assessed as eligible. 10 patients refused to participate in the experiment.

90 patients were recruited and randomized.

30 patients in group A

30 patients in group B

30 patients in group C

2 patients underwent paravertebral nerve block

Ventricular premature beats occurred in 1 patient

Operation method changed in 1 patient

28 patients in group A completed the experiment

29 patients in group B completed the experiment

29 patients in group C completed the experiment

Figure 1. Flow chart of this study. A total of 90 patients were enrolled in this study. Two patient from the group A underwent paravertebral nerve lock. Ventricular premature beats occurred in 1 patient in group B and one patient’s operation method changed in group C. Therefore, 86 patients in total had completed the study.

Figure 2. Comparison of pain scores at various time points post-operative.
Figure 3. Comparison of several secondary indicators after surgery

One-way analysis of variance

P > 0.05

Frst time to remedy (h)

A B C

One-way analysis of variance

P < 0.01

The amount of time out of bed on the 1st post-operative day (min)

A B C

One-way analysis of variance

P < 0.01

Awaken times due to pain on 1st post-operative night

A B C

One-way analysis of variance

P < 0.01

Self-controlled times

A B C

Figure 3

Supplementary Files

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