Comparison of haemodynamic changes between propofol and ketofol as induction agents in patients undergoing laparoscopic surgeries under general anaesthesia

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Abstract

Background and Aims: Laparoscopic surgeries are more commonly performed procedure nowadays because of its advantages however generation of pneumoperitoneum causes significant physiological changes. Propofol is the most commonly used induction agent but its use is limited by its side effects like dose-dependent hypotension and myocardial depression. So by combining propofol with ketamine to form ketofol may result in better hemodynamic stability. The aim of this study was to compare the haemodynamic changes in patients undergoing laparoscopic surgery under general anesthesia using propofol and ketofol as induction agents.

Material and Methods: In this prospective randomized double blind study, 80 patients of ASA I/II undergoing elective laparoscopic surgery were randomized into two Groups. Group A received 1 mg/kg of propofol + 1 mg/kg ketamine made up to a total volume of 20 ml with normal saline and Group B received 2 mg/kg propofol + normal saline to make up to an equal volume. Hemodynamic profiles like HR, SBP, DBP, and MAP were recorded at different time intervals until pneumoperitoneum. Postoperative recovery profile and complications were recorded. All data were entered in MS excel and analyzed using SPSS Version 20.0. Repeated measures ANOVA and Chi-square test were used to test the level of significance.

Results: Demographic character and duration of surgery were comparable. SBP, DBP, MAP and HR showed statistically significant difference in both groups in various time intervals with \( P < 0.05 \) with Group A (ketofol) having a better hemodynamic stability. Recovery profile in ketofol group took longer duration (4.95 min) compared to propofol group B (1.8 min). Postoperative nausea and vomiting were significant \( (P = 0.004) \) in ketofol group.

Conclusion: We concluded that ketofol had a better hemodynamic stability compared to propofol as an induction agent, however time for recovery in ketofol group took a longer period compared to propofol group, with no complication in either groups.

Keywords: Hemodynamic stability, ketofol, laproscopic surgeries, postoperative recovery, propofol

Introduction

Laparoscopic surgery, also called as minimal invasive (MIS) or keyhole surgery, is a modern surgical technique performed worldwide, replacing many open surgeries for various surgical conditions. The use of laparoscopy has revolutionized the surgical speciality with decrease in morbidity and mortality with reduced hospital stay.\(^1\) It minimizes the tissue trauma while achieving satisfactory therapeutic results. Laparoscopic surgery have been traditionally performed under general anesthesia after creating an artificial pneumoperitonium by
insufflation of carbon dioxide to provide adequate space for visualizing the abdominal contents clearly.[2,3]

Creating artificial pneumoperitoneum causes significant physiological changes to various organ systems of the body due to increased intra-abdominal pressure and release of numerous neurohumoral factors which causes significant hemodynamic changes.[3-5]

**Propofol is a substituted isopropyl phenol**[6] (2,6 di-isopropylphenol) that is chemically distinct from all other induction agents. It is a non opioid, non barbiturate, sedative-hypnotic agent with rapid onset and short duration of action due to its lipid solubility. It produces general anaesthesia by facilitation of inhibitory neurotransmission mediated by GABA. It serves to reliably induce sedation, amnesia, and general anaesthesia. Although it is extremely effective and potent, propofol use is limited by a relatively high incidence of dose-dependent hypotension and respiratory depression.[7,8]

**Ketamine is a phencyclidine derivative that produces “dissociative anaesthesia,” which resembles a cataleptic state in which the eyes remain open with a slow nystagmic gaze.[9] It is a non-competitive N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist with opioid receptor activity. It causes little or no respiratory and cardiovascular depression and has analgesic properties. Therefore, ketamine is widely used as a preventive analgesic for acute postoperative pain management.[9-11] Ketamine as a single induction agent, however, is limited by its psychomimetic and sympathomimetic effects.[12]

It’s been postulated that combining ketamine and propofol (Ketofol) may potentially balance each other’s hemodynamic adverse effects thus providing a stable hemodynamic profile at induction with added advantage of decrease in incidence of PONV, and postoperative shivering.[13,14]

Hence, in this study we have aimed to compare the haemodynamic profile of patients undergoing laparoscopic surgeries under general anaesthesia following induction with propofol or ketofol.

**Material and Methods**

Following approval from institutional ethics committee (IEC: RC/17/62), CTRI No: CTRI/2019/10/021607 and written informed consent 80 patients with American society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status I or II of either sex, aged 18–50 years requiring general anesthesia with endotracheal intubation were enrolled in this study. The exclusion criteria were patients with uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes mellitus, history of psychiatric illness, pregnant patients, BMI > 30 kg/m², and known allergy to study drugs. All enrolled patients were randomly divided into two groups Group A and Group B using computer generated random numbers.

This study is a prospective, randomized, double-blinded comparative study. The sample size was calculated based on a previous study,[15] taking difference in the mean arterial pressure between the propofol (37%) and ketofol (7%) to be the effective size, a power analysis indicated that a minimum of 20 patient in each group would be needed with power of 80% and alpha error 5% to reject null hypothesis. To allow for lack of eligibility, dropouts and considering 25% chances for converting to open surgery, sample size was raised to 40 patients in each group.

All patients were kept fasting for 8 h and were premedicated with Ranitidine 150 mg, Metoclopramide 10 mg, and Lorazepam 1 mg orally on night before surgery. On arrival of patient to the operation theatre standard ASA monitors like non-invasive blood pressure (NIBP), Pulse oximetry, Electrocardiogram (ECG) were attached and baseline systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), mean arterial pressure (MAP), heart rate (HR) and oxygen saturation (SPO₂) were recorded. ETCO₂ was also kept available. An 18 G intravenous (IV) IV cannula was secured and Ringer Lactate was started with a bolus of 5 ml/kg over 15 min followed by a maintenance of 50 ml/h. Patients were pre-oxygenated with 100% oxygen for 3 min, glycopyrolate (0.2 mg), midazolam (0.02 mg/kg), fentanyl (2 mcg/kg) were given intravenously followed by the study drug. The study drug was prepared and administered by the consultant who was not part of the study.

Group A received 1 mg/kg propofol plus 1 mg/kg ketamine (10 mg/ml diluion) diluted to 20 ml in a syringe and Group B received 2 mg/kg propofol diluted to 20 ml with normal saline in a syringe as induction agents.

After IV induction the feasibility of mask ventilation was checked and if the ventilation was adequate Vecuronium (0.1 mg/kg) was given. Once the patient was fully paralyzed he/she was intubated with an appropriate size endotracheal tube and position checked by capnography and bilateral air entry. The tube was then secured at the appropriate lip level and positive pressure ventilation was initiated with the ventilator. Anesthesia was maintained by O2:N2O mixture (50:50), sevoflurane 1–1.5% and neuromuscular blockade was maintained with intermittent doses of Vecuronium as required throughout the surgery. Paracetamol 1 gram and Ondansetron 4 mg IV were given 30 min before the end of surgery.
At the completion of the surgery oropharyngeal suction was done, inhalation agent was stopped and patient was ventilated with 100% oxygen till recovery of spontaneous respiratory efforts, then residual neuromuscular blockade was reversed with IV neostigmine (50 mcg/kg) and glycopyrolate (10 mcg/kg). Endotracheal tube cuff was deflated and patients were extubated once the patient demonstrated resumption of regular spontaneous breathing, the ability to follow verbal commands or purposeful movements. The anesthetist blinded to the study recorded the following parameters SBP, DBP, MAP, HR, and SPO$_2$ before induction, 1 min after induction, 1 min after intubation and every 5 min after intubation until pneumoperitonium created. Postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) and shivering were graded using a four point scale [Tables 1 and 2].

Dexamethasone 8 mg and Tramadol 25 mg IV would have been given as rescue drugs for vomiting and shivering with grade >2. All postoperative parameters were recorded every 15 min till 2 h in the postoperative recovery room and ward.

Statistical analysis
Patients demographic data and clinical parameters were recorded and entered in the excel sheet. Mean ± SD was used to express the continuous variables. They were tested for the normality using the Kologrov–Smirnov test. Repeated measure ANOVA was used to compare the hemodynamic parameters (SBP, DBP, MAP, SPO$_2$, HR) over the various time intervals. The number of the patients who experienced PONV, pain, and shivering in each group were expressed as categorical variable and reported as percentages and compared using Chi-square test. All statistical analysis were carried out at 5% level of significance and $P$ value <0.05 was considered as statistically significant. All statistical analysis were carried out using SPSS software 20.0.

Results
In this study 39 patients completed the study in group A, one patient was excluded because the surgery was converted to open surgery. In group B, 38 patients completed the study, two patients were excluded because in one patient surgery was converted to open surgery and another patient required additional drugs to maintain the hemodynamics [Figure 1].

The demographic profile of the study participants were comparable and they are not statistically significant [Tables 1 and 3]. The hemodynamic parameters were recorded at baseline (T1), 1 min after induction (T2), 1 min after intubation (T3), 5 min after intubation (T4), and after pneumoperitonium (T5).

Table 1: Distribution of demographic data among the groups

| Demographic data       | Group A          | Group B          |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Age (yrs) Mean±SD      | 33.95±7.84       | 33.47±8.97       |
| Sex (M/F)              | 1/38             | 6/32             |
| BMI (kg/m$^2$) Mean±SD | 22.72±3.94       | 22.99±3.94       |
| ASA (I/II)             | 35/4             | 36/2             |

SD - Standard deviation, BMI - Body mass index.

The SBP in group A were 108.44 ± 14.10, 117.64 ± 17.19 and 110.49 ± 15.06 mm Hg at 1 min after induction (T2), 1 min after intubation (T3), and 5 min after intubation (T4), respectively. In group B, SBP were 90.84 ± 13.03, 104 ± 17.80, 102.42 ± 13. 955 mm Hg at T2, T3, and T4 respectively and it was statistically significant with $P < 0.05$ [Figure 2].

The DBP in group A were 65.69 ± 8.60, 73.51 ± 11.46 and 70.62 ± 12.53 mmHg, respectively, at T2, T3, and T4. In group B, DBP were 61.29 ± 8.74, 68.53 ± 11.43, 67.47 ± 10.21 mm Hg at T2, T3, and T4, respectively, and it was statistically significant at T2 with $P < 0.05$ [Figure 3].

Table 2: Postoperative shivering grading

| Grade | Features |
|-------|----------|
| Grade 0 | No shivering |
| Grade 1 | Mild - shivering localized to neck/thorax seen as artifact in ECG or felt by palpation |
| Grade 2 | Moderate – intermittent involving of upper extremity ± thorax |
| Grade 3 | Severe – generalized shivering / sustained upper extremity and lower limb shivering. |

Figure 1: Consort flowchart
The MAP in group A were 79.92 ± 9.34, 89.44 ± 12.12 and 83.15 ± 10.95 mm Hg at T2, T3, and T4, respectively. In group B, MAP were 72.58 ± 10.03, 80.26 ± 13.44 and 78.95 ± 9.61 mm Hg at T2, T3, and T4, respectively, and it was statistically significant at T2, T3, and T4 with \( P < 0.05 \) [Figure 4]. The HR in group A were 90.13 ± 10.11, 88.87 ± 11.22 and 85.59 ± 9.90 bpm at T2, T3, and T4, respectively. In group B, HR were 96.89 ± 16.78, 87.05 ± 19.69 and 90.05 ± 13.65 bpm at T2, T3, and T4, respectively, and it was statistically significant at T2 with \( P < 0.05 \) [Figure 5]. The mean time for spontaneous eye opening were 4.95 ± 1.82 min and 1.82 ± 1.39 min in group A and B, respectively, with \( P < 0.001 \) which was statistically significant [Figure 7]. The mean time for obeying commands were 6.79 ± 2.33 min and 3.16 ± 1.48 min in group A and B, respectively, with \( P < 0.001 \) which was statistically significant [Figure 8].

In group A, 22 patients had postoperative vomiting and in group B, 2 patients had postoperative vomiting with \( P < 0.004 \) which was statistically significant [Figure 8]. No patients in either group had postoperative shivering.

**Discussion**

The use of laparoscopy has revolutionized the surgical procedure with its advantages of reduced morbidity with early recovery, minimized incision size, and trauma with reduced postoperative discomfort and wound infections. However, laparoscopic surgery is not without its own specific risks, either due to the risks associated with individual laparoscopic techniques or due to the physiological changes associated with the creation of a pneumoperitoneum. The combined use of ketamine and propofol has been addressed with great success in anaesthesiology for many years. Both propofol and ketamine have a rapid onset, and are safe and effective for sedation and analgesia in minimally invasive procedures.\(^{[16,17]}\) Ketofol is a combination of ketamine and propofol in a single syringe and can be prepared in any desired concentration. Ketamine and propofol are physically compatible for 1 h at 23°C and have been combined in different proportions for different surgical procedures.\(^{[18,19]}\)

In our study we compared propofol and ketofol as an induction agents to achieve a stable hemodynamic profile during intubation and creation of pneumoperitoneum.

The results of this study demonstrated that ketofol (1:1 mixture) produced better haemodynamic stability when compared to propofol group. The HR, SBP, DBP, and MAP showed better stability at 1 min after induction, 1 min after intubation and after creation of pneumoperitoneum in ketofol group when compared to propofol group and it was statistically significant.
Hamid Kayalha et al.\textsuperscript{[20]} conducted a similar study using ketofol and propofol as induction agents on hemodynamic stability in 96 ASA I and ASA II patients undergoing elective laparotomy surgery. Ketofol group received 1.5 mg/kg ketofol (ketamine and propofol mixture was prepared 5 mg/ml ketamine & 5 mg/ml propofol mixture (1:1) in 20 ml syringe) and propofol group received 1.5 mg/kg as an induction dose. They found that heart rate, systolic, diastolic, and mean arterial blood pressure was significantly lower in propofol group after induction, 5 min and 10 min after intubation when compared to ketofol group. The results were similar to our study.

Atashkhoi S et al.\textsuperscript{[15]} conducted a similar study in 60 patients undergoing diagnostic gynecological laparoscopic procedures under general anesthesia. Patients in the study group were anesthetized with ketamine 0.5 mg/kg and propofol 1–2.5 mg/kg, and patients in the placebo group were anesthetized with normal saline and propofol. They found that HR and MAP decreased during induction in placebo group when compared to study which is similar to our study.

In our study the mean duration of recovery was shorter in propofol group when compared to ketofol group. The mean duration of spontaneous eye opening was 1.82 min and 4.95 min in propofol and ketofol group, respectively. Similarly the mean time duration of recovery for obeying verbal commands where shorter in propofol group (3.16 min) when compared to ketofol group (6.79 min) and the difference was statistically significant.

A similar study was conducted by Ramakrishna et al.\textsuperscript{[21]} in 80 patients undergoing surgery under ambulatory anesthesia. They administered propofol slowly in one group till the end point of induction and another group received ketamine 0.5 mg/kg IV slowly followed by propofol till the end point of induction. They found there is decrease in MAP, mean systolic blood pressure, mean diastolic blood pressure in propofol group when compared with ketofol group. They also found that time to recovery was significantly delayed in ketofol group (9.8 min) when compared to propofol group (2.63 min) which is similar to our study.

Ketofol has its major impact on trend of blood pressure (SBP, DBP, and MAP) and heart rate. This trend follows a stable pattern after induction through intubation, post-intubation after creation of pneumoperitoneum. Such stable trend is probably due to decrease in sympathetic stimulation by somatic pain stimulatory input. This implies the fact that a major barrier to haemodynamic stability is the over-activation of sympathetic nervous system. This may be the reason for one patient in propofol group requiring additional drug for maintaining hemodynamic stability.
In our study we found that incidence of postoperative nausea and vomiting was higher in ketofol group than the propofol group. Similarly, Aboeldahab H et al.\textsuperscript{[13]} conducted a randomized study in 60 patients undergoing hernia repair under general anesthesia. Three groups, Group P, Group K, and Group KP received 2 mg/kg of propofol, 2 mg/kg ketamine and 1ml for every 5 kg (100 mg ketamine (10 mg/ml + 100 mg 1% propofol in 20 ml syringe) respectively as induction agents. They found that HR and MAP decreased in Group P after induction when compared to Group KP which is similar to our study. They also found that the incidence of postoperative nausea and vomiting were significantly less in propofol and ketofol groups when compared with ketamine group with \( P \) value <0.05 which is similar to our study. It was estimated that the incidence of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) in patients who undergo surgeries under general anaesthesia was reported to range from 20–30%. Laparoscopic surgery is also known to increase the incidence of PONV. The PONV in the ketofol group is relatively high which may be due to the synergistic effect of laparoscopic surgery and ketamine which resulted in increased emesis.

There were no postoperative shivering and delirium in any of the patients in either group.

**Conclusion**

This study comparing the haemodynamic stability between propofol and ketofol in patients undergoing laparoscopic surgeries under general anesthesia has shown that ketofol offers a more stable haemodynamic stability without apparent side effects. However, the time to recovery for eye opening and obeying commands were longer in the ketofol group. The incidence of vomiting is also high in ketofol group.

**Financial support and sponsorship**

Nil.

**Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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