Airway Nerve Blocks in Awake Intubation

Semih Başkan*, Dilşen Örnek, Müge Çakırca, Hidayet Ünal, Doğan Atan and Mustafa Baydar

Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital, Turkey

Submission: September 19, 2018; Published: September 25, 2018

*Corresponding author: Semih Başkan, Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital, Turkey, Email: drsemkan@yahoo.com

Abstract

Awake intubation is one of the strategies which planned according to situation of the patient, surgical procedure, the skill of the anaesthetist, the patient has difficult airway. Flexible fiberoptic bronchoscopy (FOB) is the golden standard for difficult airway patients. Airway reflexes can be removed by performing superior laryngeal nerve block (SLNB) and glossopharyngeal nerve block. Sedation is needed in this procedure to reduce anxiety and adverse events. We report a case that awake intubation assisted with FOB was performed with a bilateral glossopharyngeal nerve block and ultrasound-guided bilateral SLNB who had a difficult airway, scheduled for direct laryngoscopy.

Keywords: Coronary arterial; Anaesthetist; Glossopharyngeal nerve; Glottis; Fibreoptic intubation; Midezolam

Abbreviations: FOB: Flexible Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy; SLNB: Superior Laryngeal Nerve Block; COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases; SLN: Superior Laryngeal Nerve

Case History

The patient was 66 years old, male, smoker (1 box a day for 50 years). He has COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases) nearly 30 years and story of coronary arterial diseases. He planned for direct laryngoscopy. In pre-operative assessment the patient has shortness of breath, hoarseness, cough, phlegm and hemoptysis. Because of a lesion that keeps being more on right vocal cord continuous on anterior commissure, left vocal cord and filled right ventricule holding both band ventricules also extend in the posterior subglottic area about 2cm, the opening of rima glottis was only 5mm. Due to a potentially difficult airway, the anaesthetic plan was to perform an awake fibroptic intubation. We decided to perform glossopharyngeal and superior laryngeal nerve block to anaesthetise for awake intubation.

% Midezolam, 2mg and remifentanyl, 50μg were administered intravenously, and than infusion of remifentanyl(0.25μg/kg/h) was administered intravenously. Block of the lingual branch of the glossopharyngeal nerve was performed using 60mg of lidocaine 2% in a syringe with a needle 22 × 32 mm. The tongue was retracted medially, and the needle was inserted under the mucosa at the base of the pillar, 0.5cm lateral to the base of the tongue 30mg lidocaine were injected in each side. A portable ultrasound machine (USG 6-13MHz linear probe, Logiq e, General Electric, USA) was brought to the operating room. We scanned neck of patient using with ultrasound. Hyoid bone was easily identified in the transverse plane and prope rotated to sagittal plane. SLN was seen below the level of great hyoid horn. 1ml of 2% lidocaine were injected by A 22 gauge needle under ultrasound guidance in an in-plane configuration. This process was applied to the other side and consequently bilateral superior laryngeal nerve (SLN) was blocked. Endotracheal tube(diameter: 5.0mm) passed easily through the vocal cords without triggering a cough reflex, airway compromise rises in blood pressure and heart rate. Correct placement of the endotracheal tube was confirmed with the fiberscope, capnography and auscultation. General anaesthesia was started. Direct laryngoscopy and biopsy performed successfully.

Discussion

Fiberoptic intubation of the spontaneously breathing patient is the gold standard and technique of choice for the elective management of a difficult airway (Figure 1).

Figure 1: View of Flexible fiberoptic bronchoscopy.
With SLBN lingual radiks, epiglottis, cricoideal muscule
anaesthesia can be achived so cough, retching and straining
reflexes elminated. During awake intubation in patients,
sedation is used to relieve anxiety, induce amnesia, eliminate
pain and blunt protective reflexes (e.g. cough). Opioids and
benzodiazepines are administered intravenously; their doses
should be suitably adjusted to avoid excessive sedation and
apnoea, which may be life threatening in difficult airway cases.
The findings of recent studies demonstrate that remifentanil
usage during fibreoptic intubation shortens the procedure and
provides higher comfort [1]. Recently, ultrasound guided can be
useful and alternative to identify and assist for superior laryngeal
nerve block in patients undergoing awake FOB intubation [2].
This technique can provide good visual information on the
anatomy. The potential advantages of using ultrasound imaging
for nerve blocks include reduction in the amount of local
anaesthetic required, improved success rate, reduced time to
perform the block and reduced complication rate [3]. In this
case, use of ultrasound made it possible to perform a superior
laryngeal nerve block with low dose local anaesthetic without
complications (bleeding, hematoma, failure block, accidental
injection).

Result
Awake entubation can be performed after performing SLBN
and glossofrangeal nerve block with fibreoptic broncoscopy in
patients with difficult airway.

References
1. Mingo OH, Ashpole KJ, Irving CJ, Rucklidge MW (2008) Remifentanil
sedation for awake fibreoptic intubation with limited application
of local anaesthetic in patients for elective head and neck surgery.
Anaesthesia 63(10): 1065-1069.
2. Iida T, Suzuki A, Kunisawa T, Iwasaki H (2013) Ultrasound-guided
superior laryngeal nerve block and translaryngeal block for awake
traceal intubation in a patient with laryngeal abscess J Anesth 27(2):
309-310.
3. Brain D, Gabrielle I (2009) An estimation of the minimum effective
anesthetic volume of 2% lidocaine in ultrasound-guided axillary
brachial plexus block. Anesthesiology 111(1): 25-29.

Your next submission with Juniper Publishers
will reach you the below assets
- Quality Editorial service
- Swift Peer Review
- Reprints availability
- E-prints Service
- Manuscript Podcast for convenient understanding
- Global attainment for your research
- Manuscript accessibility in different formats
  (Pdf, E-pub, Full Text, Audio)
- Unceasing customer service

Track the below URL for one-step submission
https://juniperpublishers.com/online-submission.php