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intrathecal morphine for analgesia after hysterectomy : a dose response study

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Introduction and objectives : In the last years the application of intrathecal (IT) morphine for relief of post operative pain has gained clinical acceptance. The initial reluctance to side effects have been overcome by the advantages of consistent-reliable analgesia, and the description of some salutary changes in surgical outcome. Several differences in dose , according type of surgery are observed. The objective of this protocol is to determine the optimal dose of IT morphine to provide analgesia after abdominal hysterectomy. Patients and Methods: In a prospective study , 86 patients undergoing abdominal hysterectomy under combined spinal/epidural anesthesia with a mixture of epinephrine 100 mcg + fentanyl 25 mcg+ hyperbaric bupivacaine 7.5 mg were randomly allocated to receive, in addition , IT morphine in the following doses : 0 - 50 - 100 and 150 mcg , plus 75 mg of IV diclofenac every 8 hrs. Pain on rest and during mobilization was assessed by using 100 mm VAS until 36 hrs pos