COMPARISON OF INTRAPERITONEAL INSTILLATION OF BUPIVACAINE (0.5%) WITH TRAMADOL VERSUS ROPIVACAINE (0.5%) WITH TRAMADOL FOR POST OPERATIVE ANALGESIA AFTER LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY: RANDOMIZED DOUBLE BLIND CLINICAL STUDY

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KEYWORDS

ERAS, BUPIVACAINE, ROPIVACAINE, TRAMADOL

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Laparoscopic cholecystectomy, a common surgical procedure for gallbladder removal, offers less postoperative pain and quick recovery. However, acute pain often hinders Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS). Proper pain management improves patient comfort and surgical outcomes. **Aims:** The study evaluates Tramadol, Bupivacaine, and Ropivacaine's effectiveness in post-operative analgesia following laparoscopic cholecystectomy, comparing duration, pain severity, first rescue time, hemodynamic stability, and adverse effects. **Methodology:** The study compared the efficacy of Bupivacine 0.5% and Ropivacaine 0.5% for postoperative pain relief after elective laparoscopic abdominal surgeries in patients aged 18-60 with ASA physical status 1 and 2 admitted for laparoscopic cholecystectomy under general anesthesia. The study involved 72 patients, divided into two groups, and included preanesthetic checkups, rescue analgesia, and data analysis. **Results:** The study compared the effects of BT and RT on patients with various conditions, finding no significant differences. BT showed lower VAS score and longer-lasting analgesia. **Discussion:** Local anaesthetics like bupivacaine and ropivacaine are commonly used for intraperitoneal infiltration, providing effective pain management and stable hemodynamic profiles, with potential for further research. **Conclusion:** The study indicates that intra-peritoneal BT-Tramadol combination offers superior postoperative analgesia for 5 hours compared to RT (3 hours) with less need for rescue analgesia.

INTRODUCTION

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is a common surgical procedure for gallbladder removal, offering less post-operative pain, small incisions, fewer wound complications, quick recovery, and shorter hospital stay. However, post-operative pain remains acute and often prevents early recovery, hindering Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS). [1]

Post-cholecystectomy, pain can be somatic (incisions), visceral (deep abdominal discomfort), or shoulder pain. Visceral pain peaks within an hour and worsens with movement. It's mediated by the enteric nervous system. [2,3]
Nociceptors in organs like gallbladder and peritoneum transmit distress signals via vagus nerve, influencing feeding and illness responses. Proper pain management improves patient comfort, early mobilization, and surgical outcomes. [4]
Local anaesthetics like bupivacaine and ropivacaine are widely used for pain control following laparoscopic surgeries due to their long-lasting and effective analgesic properties.
Tramadol, an opioid analgesic, can be enhanced by combining it with local anaesthetics like bupivacaine or ropivacaine, potentially providing superior pain relief.
Subdiaphragmatic local anaesthetic is injected into the peritoneum, surgical bed, or diaphragm to reduce shoulder pain incidence after organ excision.
Postoperative pain remains a significant concern, affecting patient recovery and satisfaction. Traditional analgesic methods often fail, leading to opioid dependency and adverse effects.

AIM & OBJECTIVES

The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of intraperitoneal instillation of Tramadol, along with Bupivacaine (0.5%) and Ropivacaine (0.5%), for post-operative analgesia following laparoscopic cholecystectomy.
The study aims to compare postoperative analgesia duration, pain severity, and first rescue analgesia time between two groups, as well as assess hemodynamic stability and associated adverse effects.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The study was conducted at Krishna Hospital, Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth University, Karad, Maharashtra, with institutional approval from the ethical committee, in the Department of Anaesthesiology.

STUDY DESIGN - This was a randomized double-blind clinical study.

STUDY PERIOD -18 months

SOURCE OF DATA - This study analyzed patients aged 18-60 with ASA physical status 1 and 2 admitted for laparoscopic cholecystectomy under general anesthesia in a hospital.

The study aimed to compare the efficacy of intraperitoneal instillation of Bupivacine 0.5% and Ropivacaine 0.5% for postoperative pain relief after elective laparoscopic abdominal surgeries. A total of 72 patients were recruited and randomly divided into two groups. The sample size was calculated considering duration of analgesia and first rescue analgesia.

INCLUSION CRITERIA: The inclusion criteria include patients with ASA physical status I and II, aged 18-60 years.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA: The exclusion criteria for this medication include known allergies, cardiovascular, respiratory, or central nervous system disorders, haematological disorders, difficult airway, bile duct exploration, acute cholecystitis, pregnant women, alcohol or drug addiction history, language barriers, or open abdominal surgery conversion.

The study involved 72 patients divided into two groups of 36 each, with the patients receiving either 0.5% Inj. Bupivacaine (3mg/kg) in combination with Inj. Tramadol (1mg/kg) or 0.5% Inj. Tramadol (1mg/kg). Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee, and informed consent was obtained from patients who fulfilled the criteria for selection.

Preanesthetic checkups included CBC, blood sugar, renal function test, coagulation profile, bleeding time, clotting time, serum electrolytes, and urine routine microscopy. Patients were reviewed and informed about the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) to analyze post-operative pain.

Postoperative care involved monitoring patients, administering rescue analgesia in the form of diclofenac 75mg if the pain was moderate to severe, and an alternative rescue analgesic, paracetamol, was available in cases where diclofenac did not provide adequate pain relief.

Data analysis involved pre-structured proforma for data collection and statistical software SPSS version 20 for statistical analysis. A P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

OBSERVATION & RESULTS

Table 1: Table showing the age distribution of the subjects by groups

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	P value
Age	BT	36	43.61	4.480	0.48
	RT	36	44.47	5.690	

The study found no significant difference in mean ages between the BT and RT groups, with the BT group having a mean age of 43.61 years and the RT group having a mean age of 44.47 years.

Tab 2: Distribution of study subjects as per Gender

	GROUP		Total
	BT	RT	

Gender	**F**	**Count**	**32**	**26**	**58**
		% within GROUP	**88.9%**	**72.2%**	**80.6%**
	M	**Count**	**4**	**10**	**14**
		% within GROUP	**11.1%**	**27.8%**	**19.4%**
Total		**Count**	**36**	**36**	**72**
		% within GROUP	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**
Chi-sq value- 3.19, p value- 0.07, non-significant					

The table shows gender distribution in BT and RT groups, with 88.9% females and 72.2% males, respectively. The Chisquare value is 3.19, indicating no statistically significant difference in gender distribution between the two groups.

3: Table showing mean weight distribution of the subjects by groups

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t test	
Weight	BT	36	57.75	9.21	0.273	0.786
	RT	36	57.11	10.61		

The table compares weights in BT and RT groups, with BT having a mean weight of 57.75 kg and RT having a mean weight of 57.11 kg.

Table 4: Table showing ASA status of the subjects by group

			GROUP		Total
			BT	**RT**	
ASA status	**ASA1**	**Count**	**23**	**20**	**43**
		% within GROUP	**63.9%**	**55.6%**	**59.7%**
	ASA2	**Count**	**13**	**16**	**29**
		% within GROUP	**36.1%**	**44.4%**	**40.3%**
Total		**Count**	**36**	**36**	**72**

	% within GROUP	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table shows the ASA distribution of subjects in the BT and RT groups, with 63.9 and 55.6 percent respectively. Overall, 59.7% and 40.3% of subjects have ASA status 1, respectively, with 100% representation within each group.

Table 5 : Table showing VAS Score at different time points by groups

VAS Score	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t test	
0 hour	BT	36	0.53	0.81	-2.928	.005
	RT	36	1.17	1.03		
2 hour	BT	36	1.75	2.27	-11.042	.000
	RT	36	6.14	0.72		
4 hour	BT	36	4.94	0.86	-6.527	.000
	RT	36	6.14	0.68		
6 hour	BT	36	4.89	0.85	-6.594	.000
	RT	36	6.06	0.63		

The study compared Visual Analog Scale (VAS) scores between patients receiving BT and RT at various time points. BT showed a significantly lower mean VAS score at 0 hours and consistently lower VAS scores at 2 hours, 4 hours, and 6 hours, indicating that BT provides more effective pain relief.

Table 6: Table showing time of rescue analgesia

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t test	p value
Time of rescue analgesia	Bupivacaine with Tramadol	36	5.14	0.87	9.865	0.001
	Ropivacaine with Tramadol	36	3.06	0.92		

The table compares post-op rescue analgesia time between patients receiving BT and RT, showing BT provides longer-lasting analgesia compared to RT, as evidenced by the delayed requirement for rescue analgesia in the BT group.

7: Table showing Heart Rate Score at different time points by groups

Hear Rate	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t test	
0 hour	BT	36	69.64	7.89	-1.365	.177
	RT	36	72.61	10.42		
2 hour	BT	36	64.86	8.11	-1.776	.080
	RT	36	72.11	23.12		
4 hour	BT	36	72.36	5.31	-1.599	.114
	RT	36	75.19	9.21		
6 hour	BT	36	73.28	8.12	-.936	.353
	RT	36	75.25	9.69		

The table compares Heart Rate (HR) measurements between patients receiving BT and RT at different time points. At 0 hours, BT had a mean HR of 69.64 bpm, compared to 72.61 bpm for RT. At 2 hours, BT had a mean HR of 64.86 bpm, compared to 72.11 bpm for RT. HR measurements showed slight variations at 4 and 6 hours.

8: Table showing systolic BP at different time points by groups

Systolic BP	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t test	p value
0 hour	BT	36	128.42	16.47	1.313	.193
	RT	36	123.86	12.72		
2 hour	BT	36	123.83	13.00	1.896	.062
	RT	36	118.58	10.34		
4 hour	BT	36	126.03	15.63	1.716	.091
	RT	36	120.22	12.96		
6 hour	BT	36	124.89	11.34	-.364	.717
	RT	36	125.89	11.95		

The table compares Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) measurements between patients receiving BT and RT at different time points. At 0 hours, BT had a mean SBP of 128.42 mmHg, while RT had a mean of 123.86 mmHg. At 4 hours, BT had a mean SBP of 126.03 mmHg, while RT had a mean of 120.22 mmHg. At 6 hours, both groups had mean SBP values of 124.89 mmHg (Bupivacaine) and 125.89 mmHg (Ropivacaine).

9: Table showing diastolic BP at different time points by groups

	BT	36	80.42	12.92	1.458	.149
	RT	36	76.58	9.05		
	BT	36	83.47	4.49	2.572	.012
	RT	36	80.44	5.45		
	BT	36	80.67	8.74	.715	.477
	RT	36	79.28	7.70		
	BT	36	85.25	3.60	3.358	.001

The study compared Diastolic Blood Pressure (DBP) measurements of 36 patients at different time points. At 0 hours, the mean DBP was 80.42 mmHg, while at 2 hours, it was 83.47 mmHg. At 4 hours, it was 80.67 mmHg, while at 6 hours, it was 85.25 mmHg. Despite no significant differences in DBP at 0 hours and 4 hours, BT led to higher DBP compared to RT at 2 hours and 6 hours, suggesting potential differences in their effects on diastolic blood pressure over time.

10: Table showing Mean Atrial Pressure at different time points by groups

	BT	36	96.64	7.68	.774	.442
	RT	36	95.06	9.58		
	BT	36	83.31	7.95	-.287	.775
	RT	36	83.83	7.64		
	BT	36	80.56	7.07	1.340	.184
	RT	36	78.33	6.99		
	BT	36	83.22	6.85	1.962	.054
	RT	36	80.22	6.10		

The table compares Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) measurements between patients receiving BT and RT at various time points. At 0 hours, BT had a mean MAP of 96.64 mmHg, while RT had a mean of 95.06 mmHg. At 2 hours, both groups had similar MAP values. At 4 hours, BT had a

mean MAP of 80.56 mmHg, while RT had a mean of 78.33 mmHg. At 6 hours, BT had a mean MAP of 83.22 mmHg.

11: Table showing SPO2 at different time points by groups

	BT	36	99.75	0.84	-1.555	.124
	RT	36	99.97	0.17		
	BT	36	99.53	1.32	-1.703	.093
	RT	36	99.92	0.37		
	BT	36	99.81	0.58	-.199	.843
	RT	36	99.83	0.61		
	BT	36	99.67	0.86	-1.600	.114
	RT	36	99.92	0.37		

The study compared Oxygen Saturation (SPO2) levels between patients receiving BT and RT at different time points. At 0 hours, BT had a mean SPO2 of 99.75%, while RT had a mean of 99.97%. At 2 hours, BT had a mean SPO2 of 99.53%, while RT had a mean of 99.92%. At 4 hours, both groups had similar SPO2 values, and at 6 hours, BT had a mean of 99.67%.

DISCUSSION

Intraperitoneal administration of local anaesthetic is ideal for ambulatory anaesthesia due to its simplicity and lack of invasive techniques. However, longer-lasting and safe anaesthetics are needed. Bupivacaine is the most commonly used local anaesthetic for intraperitoneal infiltration, while ropivacaine offers a safer alternative with similar effects and duration. [5-7]

Prashant S et al. found that 0.5% Ropivacaine concentration effectively provided postoperative analgesia in laparoscopic cholecystectomy, reducing the need for rescue analgesics. They selected 0.5% Bupivacaine and 0.5% Ropivacaine with Tramadol for longer-lasting pain relief.

The study analyzed the mean ages of patients receiving bupivacaine and tramadol (BT) and resuscitation (RT) anesthetics. The mean ages were 43.61 years and 44.47 years, respectively. The gender distribution was 80.6% female and 19.4% male, with 88.9% females in the BT group and 72.2% in the RT group. The overall gender distribution was 80.6% female and 19.4% male. The mean weight was 57.75 kg for the BT group and 57.11 kg for the RT group. The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) status distribution showed that 63.9% of subjects in the BT group had ASA status 1 and 36.1% had ASA status 2. The ASA status distribution was similar across both groups, with 59.7% of subjects having ASA status 1 and 40.3% having ASA status 2. The study also found a significant difference in pain relief between BT and RT, as measured by Visual Analog Scale (VAS) scores at various time points. BT consistently provided lower VAS scores at 0, 2, 4, and 6 hours compared to RT, suggesting more effective pain management

during prolonged postoperative analgesia. The mean VAS score for the BT group at 6 hours was 4.89 ± 0.8, compared to 6.06 ± 0.63 for the RT group.

Aurag et al found that post-operation, pain scores increased, with Group TB experiencing higher VAS scores. Despite a general decline, Group TB experienced more fluctuations, while Group MB maintained a stable reduction.

The study by Priyanshu et al showed that Ropivacaine (Group R) provided superior initial pain control, lower VAS scores, and sustained pain relief compared to Ropivacaine plus tramadol.

The study by Rajesh et al found that the VAS score and VRS score were significantly lower in GroupR (Ropivacaine 0.75%) postoperatively compared to Group B (Bupivacaine 0.5%), indicating significant post-op analgesia in patients receiving Ropivacaine. The study suggests that Bupivacaine requires more frequent dosing for sustained pain relief, while Ropivacaine has comparable pain relief up to the 8th hour postoperatively.

Toleska et al. found that VAS scores were significantly lower in group A (Bupivacaine 0.5%) compared to group B (Control group) at all post-operative time points.

Narasimham et al.'s study found that bupivacaine plus tramadol group (Group C) had lower VAS scores post-operatively compared to bupivacaine plus dexmedetomidine group (Group B). This trend continued over 24-hour periods, indicating better pain relief.

The Time of Rescue Analgesia in patients receiving BT was significantly longer than in those receiving RT, with BT providing 5.14 hours more than RT's 3.06 hours. This suggests that BT combination provides more prolonged analgesia compared to RT. Studies have shown that local anaesthetic instillation of Bupivacaine and Ropivacaine can reduce morphine consumption and pain intensity, highlighting the importance of tailored anaesthetic approaches for postoperative pain management.

The study found no significant difference in mean heart rates between the BT and RT groups, suggesting similar effects on heart rate. This finding aligns with previous studies, where preoperative heart rates were similar between RT and RD groups, suggesting no significant baseline differences in cardiovascular status. Both drug combinations had no substantial impact on heart rate.

The table compares Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) measurements between patients receiving BT and RT at different time points. At 0 hours, BT had a mean SBP of 128.42 mmHg, while RT had a mean of 123.86 mmHg. At 4 hours, BT had a mean SBP of 126.03 mmHg, while RT had a mean of 120.22 mmHg. At 6 hours, both groups had mean SBP values of 124.89 mmHg (Bupivacaine) and 125.89 mmHg (Ropivacaine).

The study found no significant difference in SBP between Bupivacaine and Ropivacaine over time, consistent with previous studies evaluating their cardiovascular effects in clinical settings. Both local anaesthetics have minimal systemic cardiovascular effects.

BT and RT, despite differing pharmacokinetic and analgesic profiles, show comparable postoperative SBP effects, indicating their safety in laparoscopic procedures via intraperitoneal instillation.

The study analyzed diastolic blood pressure (BP) measurements in patients receiving BT and RT. The mean BP was 80.42 mmHg for BT and 76.58 mmHg for RT at 0 hours, almost identical at 2 hours, 4 hours, and 6 hours. No significant differences were found between the two groups. This is consistent with previous research showing similar results with different anesthetics. The study concludes that both BT and RT maintain stable hemodynamic profiles, making them reliable options for postoperative pain management without significant cardiovascular side effects.

The study compares Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) measurements between patients receiving BT and RT, revealing mostly non-significant differences. The mean MAP was 96.64 mmHg for BT and 95.06 mmHg for RT at 0 hours, 83.31 mmHg for BT and 83.83 mmHg for RT at 2 hours, 80.56 mmHg for BT and 78.33 mmHg for RT at 4 hours, and 83.22 mmHg for BT and 80.22 mmHg for RT at 6 hours. Despite fluctuations, no consistent significant differences were observed between the two groups. The study supports the interchangeable use of BT and RT in clinical practice, tailored to patient-specific needs.
The study compared Oxygen SPO2 levels between patients receiving Bupivacaine (BT) and Tramadol (RT) at different time points. The results showed no significant differences in SPO2 levels between the two groups. Both treatments maintained similar oxygen saturation levels throughout the study. The study supports the use of both anaesthetic combinations in clinical practice, demonstrating that both provide effective analgesia without compromising oxygenation, crucial for patient safety and overall outcomes. Future research could explore these findings in diverse patient populations to validate the broad applicability of these anaesthetics.

CONCLUSION

The study suggests that the intra-peritoneal instillation of a BT-Tramadol combination provides superior postoperative analgesia for 5 hours compared to RT (3 hours) with less need for rescue analgesia.

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