



A Comparative Study Between Ondansetron and Granisetron for Post Operative Nausea Vomiting In Laparoscopic hysterectomy

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Postoperative nausea vomiting (PONV) is one of the commonest adverse event seen in anesthesia practice. Among all the incidence is high in gynecology patients, that to undergoing laparoscopic surgeries. In this randomized double blinded prospective study we compared the efficacy of ondansetron and granisetron for prevention of PONV in laparoscopic hysterectomies.

Objective

1. Compare the incidence of PONV between ondansetron and granisetron group
2. To assess the demand of rescue antiemetic (metoclopramide)
3. To Compare the side effects of the two drugs

Methodology

A total of 160 patients undergoing laparoscopic hysterectomies were randomly allocated to one of the two groups of 80 patients each. Patient in group O were given 4mg of Ondansetron and patient in group G were given 2 mg of Granisetron. The standard general anesthesia technique was administered to all patients. Episodes of nausea, retching, vomiting were assessed during first 24 hours after anesthesia.

Results

There was statistical difference for demographic data among the two groups ($p < 0.05$). Ondansetron, having shorter duration of action, requires further repeat doses which may extend twice to thrice a day, as compared to the long duration antiemetic action of a single dose of granisetron.

Conclusions

The incidence of PONV was significantly high in ondansetron than in granisetron given prophylactically in laparoscopic hysterectomies.

Keywords: PONV, Ondansetron, Granisetron, Laparoscopic surgery

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

PONV- Post operative nausea vomiting

IV- intravenous

MAC- Minimum alveolar concentration

Mg- milligrams

Kg- kilograms

ECG – electrocardiogram

Hrs- hours

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the last several decades the risk of mortality due to surgery and anesthesia have decreased as the attention have been shifted to the factors that negatively

influence patient's morbidity. Among all such factors Post Operative Nausea vomiting (PONV) is the leading cause. Its incidence rate is 49% of all the patients.¹ Postoperative nausea vomiting can cause a diverse consequences like patient's dissatisfaction, unexpected hospital stays, increase cost due to additional drug use and delayed recovery and return to work.

It is the most common complication related to anesthesia. But nowadays the incidence have decreased to 75-80% since the ether era. Patient undergoing major gynaecological surgeries are esp. prone to PONV with reported incidence of 50-75%.^{2,3} PONV is multifactorial and in spite of advanced antiemetic therapy incidence is high. It can be patient related, surgery related, pre and post-operative factors, anesthesia related factors



contributing to development of PONV.¹⁸

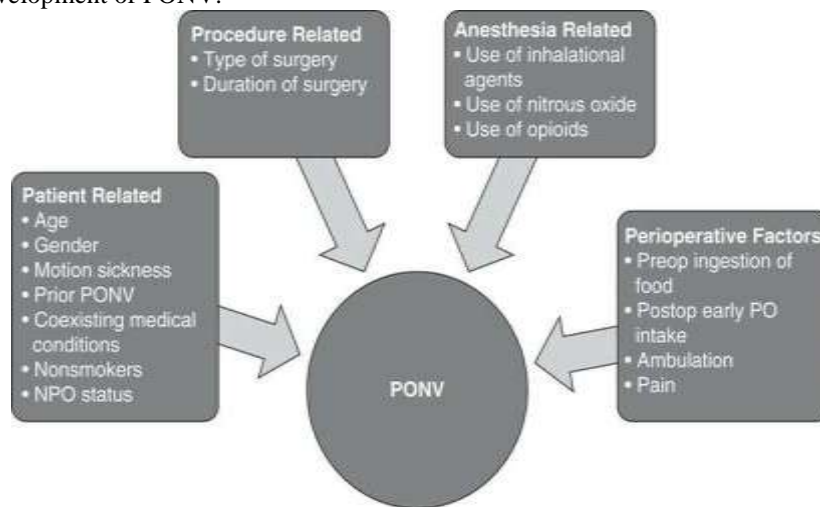


Figure 1: Causes of PONV

Preventing PONV is easier than treating it. Many drugs are used for preventing PONV like atropine, scopolamine, metoclopramide, midazolam, dexamethasone, promethazine and many more. But 5-HT₃ receptors antagonists are most commonly used as they are highly specific and with minimal side effects. Ondansetron, granisetron, dolasetron, tropisetron, palonosetron belong to this group. Unlike ondansetron, granisetron is more selective and effective. Headache, diarrhoea, sedation are some of its side effects.²⁸ Hence this study is being conducted in order to compare the two drugs Ondansetron and Granisetron in prevention of postoperative nausea and vomiting in laparoscopic hysterectomies.

II. METHOD:

Patients of ASA Grade I and II, between 18 - 55 years of age undergoing laparoscopic hysterectomies were included in the study. Pre-anesthetic assessment of all patients was done a day before the surgery. A detailed history and examination was done. And all the basic investigations like haemoglobin, total leucocyte count, differential leucocyte count, electrocardiography were done. After informing the patient about the study and possible side effects of drug administration informed consent of the patient for participation in the study was taken. All the patients were advised to remain nil per oral after 10 pm the day before surgery. And all the patients were premedicated with injection pantocid 40 mg the day before surgery and on the day of surgery. On the day of surgery, after checking the patient's identity preoperatively, confirming the NBM status,

checking all the equipment, patient was taken for the surgery. All the vitals, that is blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen saturation was recorded before starting the procedure. The patients of Group O received injection Ondansetron 4mg (2ml) intravenously 2 minutes prior to induction of anesthesia and Group G were injected with injection Granisetron 2mg (2ml) intravenously 2 minutes before induction of anesthesia. No other antiemetic was given. Induction of anesthesia was with propofol (1-2.5 mg/kg) intravenously and fentanyl 2mcg/kg IV. After 3 mins of preoxygenation, tracheal intubation was done with the help of succinylcholine (1-2 mg/kg) IV following ryles tube insertion. To maintain the anesthetic state Isoflurane (MAC 1) and 50% oxygen was given through inhalation. Atracurium with the loading dose 0.5mg/kg followed by the maintenance dose 0.1mg/kg was given every 15-20 minutes to maintain the muscle relaxation. All the vitals that is blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen saturation, ECG was monitored intraoperatively. Intraoperative hypotension and hypertension were treated accordingly. Bradycardia (HR < 40) was treated with IV atropine (0.01-0.02 mg/kg). Few minutes prior to completion of the surgery all the patients were administered with diclofenac (1.5mg/kg) intravenously. After completion of surgery, residual neuromuscular block was antagonized with IV neostigmine (0.04 - 0.08 mg/kg) and IV glycopyrolate 0.2 mg for each 1 mg of neostigmine. Tracheal extubation was done on meeting the standard criteria for extubation. The patient was evaluated for postoperative nausea, vomiting, retching immediately after the surgery in the recovery



room and then episodes of nausea, vomiting or retching were recorded if patients complain about it till 24 hrs. Post operative analgesia were maintained with diclofenac. And metoclopramide IV (10 mg) was used as a rescue antiemetic if needed. The result was then be compiled and analysed statistically. Appropriate treatment was taken in case of side effects.

The data was taken as follows---No emesis complete control
1-2 episodes- nearly complete control
3-5 episodes- partial control

>5 episodes- Failure

Nausea will be interpreted as
Grade 0=No Nausea, Grade 1=Mild Nausea, Grade 2=Moderate Nausea and
Grade 3=Severe Nausea.

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Incidence of post-operative vomiting/nausea/retching episodes.
2. Timing and amount of rescue antiemetic (metoclopramide) required.

III. OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

The observations are presented as Mean \pm Standard Deviation or as percentages as is applicable.

Table 1: Frequency of Nausea among study subjects

Time	Granisetron (N=80)		Ondansetron (N=80)		P value
	N	%	N	%	
Immediate	1	1.3	8	10	0.040(S)
1hour	1	1.3	3	3.8	0.613
2hour	0	0	3	3.8	0.244
4hour	1	1.3	0	0	1.000
6hour	1	1.3	1	1.3	0.477
24hour	1	1.3	9	11.25	0.022(S)

Table 1 depicts the postoperative episodes of Nausea when granisetron and ondansetron were given separately to two randomized groups of patients. It shows that immediate postoperatively only 1 episode of nausea while with ondansetron 8 episodes of nausea which was statistically significant ($p < 0.040$). At 1 hr, 1 episode of nausea with granisetron as compared to ondansetron showing 3 episodes of nausea. With granisetron these were 0, 1, 1 episodes of nausea at 2 hr, 4 hr, 6 hr respectively as compared with

ondansetron having 3, 0, 1 episode of nausea. And at 24 hr granisetron shows only 1 episode as compared to ondansetron showing 9 episodes, which is statistically significant ($p = 0.022$).

Table 2: Frequency of Vomiting among study subjects

Time	Granisetron (N=80)		Ondansetron (N=80)		P value
	N	%	N	%	
Immediate	0	0	7	8.8	0.020(S)
1hour	1	1.3	1	1.3	0.477
2hour	0	0	1	1.3	1.000
4hour	0	0	5	6.3	0.069
6hour	0	0	9	11.3	0.006(S)
24hour	1	1.3	10	12.5	0.012(S)

Results reveal that there is a significant difference ($p = 0.020$) in the mean number of episodes of vomiting immediate postoperatively, with no episodes of vomiting with granisetron as

compared to ondansetron which had 7 episodes of vomiting. At 1 hr, 2 hr, 4 hr there was a non significant difference seen between the two groups as in granisetron group there were 1, 0, 0 ep



isode of vomiting respectively. While with ondansetron there were 1, 1, 5 episodes of vomiting respectively. At 6 hrs, granisetron showed 0 episodes of vomiting while 9 episodes with ondansetron which was

statistically significant ($p=0.006$). At 24 hrs only 1 episode of vomiting was seen with granisetron and 10 episodes of vomiting with ondansetron which was statistically significant ($p=0.012$).

Table 3: Frequency of overall Nausea and Vomiting among study subjects

Time	Granisetron (N=80)		Ondansetron (N=80)		Pvalue
	N	%	N	%	
Immediate	1	1.3	10	12.5	0.012(S)
1hour	2	2.5	4	5	0.677
2hour	0	0	5	6.3	0.069
4hour	1	1.3	4	5	0.363
6hour	2	2.5	10	12.5	0.036(S)
24hour	1	1.3	11	13.75	0.007(S)

Table 3 depicts the postoperative episodes of overall PONV when granisetron and ondansetron were given to the two groups of patients. Difference in mean number of PONV episodes observed immediately after surgery was 1 for granisetron and 10 for ondansetron respectively, which is significant ($p=0.012$).

At 1 hr, 2 hr, 4 hr the mean no. of episodes of PONV were 2, 0, 1 respectively in granisetron group as compared to

ondansetron group which had 4, 5, 4 episodes of PONV at 1 hr, 2 hr, 4 hr respectively. At 6 hours there were only 2 episodes of PONV in the granisetron group and 10 episodes of PONV in the ondansetron group, it was statistically significant ($p=0.036$). A significant difference was seen at 24 hours, only 1 episode of PONV was seen in granisetron as compared to ondansetron group which had 11 episodes of PONV ($p=0.007$).

Table 4: Frequency of antiemetic use among study subjects

Time	Granisetron (N=80)		Ondansetron (N=80)		Pvalue
	N	%	N	%	
Immediate	0	0	3	3.8	0.244
1hour	0	0	0	0	-
2hour	0	0	1	1.3	1.000
4hour	0	0	2	2.5	0.477
6hour	0	0	6	7.5	0.037(S)
24hour	1	1.3	8	10	0.022(S)

Result reveal that the requirement of antiemetic in granisetron group was 0 immediately in postoperative period at 1 hr, 2 hr, 4 hr. In ondansetron group, requirement of antiemetic immediately, at 1 hr, 2 hr, 4 hr is 3, 0, 1, 2 respectively. This difference was statistically non-significant. At 6 hr, a significant difference was seen where in granisetron group there was no requirement of antiemetic and in ondansetron group anti-emetic was used 6 times.

At 24 hrs, in granisetron group antiemetic was used only once while in the ondansetron group, antiemetic was used 8 times.



Table 5: Frequency of complications among study subjects

Complications	Granisetron(N=80)		Ondansetron(N=80)		Pvalue
	N	%	N	%	
Constipation	7	8.7	0	0	0.020(S)
Headache	3	3.8	12	15	<0.001(S)
No complication	70	87.5	68	85	0.818

In our study, it shows that in the Group O 0 patients had constipation while in the Group Ghad 7 patients who had constipation. Granisetron group has 3 patients who complained of headache and 12 patients complained of headache in ondansetron group. And there is no adverse effect.

IV. DISCUSSION

PONV is a very common and distressing sequelae of GA, incidence being 20-30%. It is a leading cause of delayed discharge, unanticipated hospital admission after ambulatory surgical procedures, pulmonary aspiration, wound dehiscence and dehydration. It is multifactorial and despite advanced antiemetic therapy the incidence is high. Apfel et al⁶⁵ stated that among patients receiving inhaled anaesthesia, females with a history of PONV or motion sickness, and post-operative use of opioids were more important risk factors for PONV and each additional risk factor increased the PONV incidence rate to 21%, 39%, 61%, and 79%.

Many types of 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists are being used to prevent PONV. Ondansetron was the first 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist to be marketed and is most commonly used to control PONV. Granisetron is a 2nd generation 5HT₃ antagonist having unique structural, pharmacological and clinical properties that distinguish it from other 5-HT₃ antagonists.

Naguib et al⁶⁶ demonstrated that the incidence of PONV after laparoscopic surgeries in the placebo group was remarkably high 72%. In our study the factors that would have contributed to nausea and vomiting may be laparoscopic surgery, female gender, menstrual cycle, etc. We conducted a study on 160 ASA I and II patients with demographic data in terms of age, weight, duration

of anesthesia, duration of surgery which were similar in two groups. Study done by Paxton⁶⁷ showed that PONV is more common in young and obese patients.

In our study there is no statistical significant difference in the baseline values of hemodynamic variables between the two groups, before, during or after giving the study drugs. In PACU we recorded the SBP, DBP and HR at regular intervals, no hemodynamic alterations between the results were observed.

Post-operative episodes of nausea our results show a significant difference between the nausea episodes immediately after surgery, where ondansetron shows 8 episodes and granisetron only 1 episode (p<0.40) while for 1-2 hours mean episodes were found to be only 1 episode with granisetron, 3 episodes with ondansetron.

At 4, 6 hours postoperatively shows both ondansetron and granisetron almost show similar episodes of vomiting, where at 24 hours granisetron is more effective than ondansetron as showing 1 episode with granisetron and 10 episodes with ondansetron (pvalue<0.001). Similar to our study conducted by Upendranath et al,⁶⁰ comparing efficacy of ondansetron and granisetron in laparoscopic surgeries, it was found that the 0-2 hours interval, out of 80, 9 (18%) patients in group O had nausea while only 2 patients 4% in Group G had nausea. This was statistically significant (p<0.05). In the 3-6 hours only 1-3 patients of Group O had nausea while 1-2 patients belonging to group Ghad nausea, respectively.

Our study reveals that there is a significant difference (p<0.020) in the mean number of episodes of vomiting immediately after surgery where ondansetron shows 7 episodes of vomiting among 80 patients while granisetron shows no episodes of vomiting. However, 24 hours after



surgery, granisetron shows least no. of episodes of vomiting while ondansetron shows 10 episodes of vomiting among 80 patients.

Thus, there is a significant difference ($p=0.012$) between the two groups. Similar to our study, Savant et al.⁶⁸ compared the efficacy of intravenous ondansetron 4mg and granisetron 2mg during oral and maxillofacial surgical procedure, he found emetic episodes in ondansetron group in first 0-2hrs postoperative period were 1 while that in granisetron was 0 ($p<0.32$). In 3-24 hrs period of time incidence of vomiting was less with granisetron as compared to that of ondansetron.

Episodes of overall PONV

In our study it was found that among the 80 patients who received ondansetron 10 patients had the episodes of nausea and vomiting immediately after the surgery and only 1 episode of PONV in granisetron group. However the incidence with granisetron was less as compared to ondansetron. Thus, concluding that granisetron is much more effective immediately and upto 24-hours surgery. While incidence of PONV increase in ondansetron after 6 hrs.

Similarly, in the study conducted by Gauchan Setal⁶⁹ in laparoscopic cholecystectomy it was evaluated and found that in first 3 hours period each of the drug had a similar antiemetic effect ($p>0.05$). And between 4-12hrs also the episodes of nausea, retching as well as vomiting were statistically insignificant in both groups. In last 12hrs episode of nausea, retching and vomiting were significantly higher in ondansetron group. While in granisetron group the incidence was low in first 24 hrs. The difference in both the studies found can be due to the fact that he used the drug at the end of the surgery and in our study, we used the drug at the induction time.

Use of rescue antiemetic

It has been recommended that in cases of PONV, repeat antiemetics should be of a different class than the one used for prophylaxis. This was why metoclopramide 10 mg IV was used as a rescue anti-emetic drug. Results reveal that the requirement of antiemetic immediately in the post operative period was non-significant. While the incidence of use of antiemetic is significant at 24 hours where the use was more in ondansetron group as compared to granisetron.

Adverse effects

The 5-HT₃ antagonists granisetron and ondansetron have an enviable safety profile with most side effects being mild and transient. A small frequency of patients in both study groups

experienced non serious adverse effects like short duration headache, constipation. Apart from this no side effects were observed in patients of both the groups in our study. As depicted by table we can observe that the incidence of headache was 3.8% in granisetron group while it was 15% in ondansetron group showing a statistically significant difference ($p<0.001$). While the incidence of constipation was 8.7% in granisetron group and no such side effect was seen with ondansetron. No any other serious adverse effect was noted.

Similar to our study Ommid et al.⁵² study showed that the incidence of headache was 18% in ondansetron group while it was 11% in granisetron group showing a statistically significant difference ($p<0.05$).

Complete response

Patients showing complete response (patients who had no nausea and vomiting and no need for rescue antiemetic during the 24 hours postoperative

period) were significantly higher in group G (98.7%) while the percentage in group O was only 66.2%. As compared to Upendranath et. al.⁶⁰ in ondansetron group there were 10 (20%) patients received injection metoclopramide 10mg, the rescue antiemetic in 24 hr postoperative period. And in granisetron group only 1 (2%) out of 50 patients needed rescue antiemetic. This was statistically significant ($p<0.05$).

Despite its low incidence, the issue of PONV remains a profound and often overwhelming postoperative complication. Both of the serotonin antagonists, ondansetron and granisetron appear to work effectively for prevention and treatment of PONV. However, the effectiveness of both drugs when compared to one another, suggests an overall increased efficacy of granisetron along with the advantage of long duration of action. Even though, in this study, ondansetron exhibits favourable results during the initial 6 hours of post-operative period, but the statistical analysis clearly shows that a single IV dose of 2 mg granisetron led to effective control of overall PONV and hence lesser requirement of anti-emetics for as long as 24 hours post operatively. Ondansetron, having shorter duration of action, requires further repeat doses which may extend from twice to thrice a day, which decreases its cost-effectiveness, as compared to the long duration anti-emetic action of a single dose of granisetron. Therefore, this study provides a valid reason for using granisetron for the



management of PONV.

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