Multicenter evaluation of propofol for head-injured patients in Taiwan

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: The present study was a multicenter, retrospective study which aimed to evaluate the efficacy of propofol, a new choice of pharmacotherapy in head-injured patients. METHODS: Head-injured patients admitted to 3 hospitals during the period from January 2003 to December 2004 were included in this clinical trial. Data on patients' demographics, laboratory data, GCS score, ICP, CPP, concurrent medications, and therapeutic outcomes were collected. RESULTS: Among the 104 patients included, only 44 were given propofol. The average age was 40.8 +/- 22 years for all patients, with 41.91 +/- 20.41 and 43.48 +/- 23.19 years for the propofol group and nonpropofol group, respectively (P=.097). There was no significant difference in baseline GCS score between the 2 groups (5.86 +/- 1.84 vs 5.66 +/- 1.59, P=.729). Mean ICP for the first 3 days in the ICU was 17.23 +/- 9.0 mm Hg in the propofol group and 33.19 +/- 32.56 in the nonpropofol group, respectively (P=.017). Mean CPP for the first 5 days in the ICU was 71.10 +/- 15.32 mm Hg in the propofol group and 43.20 +/- 29.92 mm Hg in the nonpropofol group (P<.001). A higher survival rate was found in the propofol group (81.8% vs 46.7%, P<.001). CONCLUSIONS: The present study demonstrated that propofol improved the outcome in recovery phase of head-injured patients.