SHORT COMMUNICATION

PENTOXIFYLLINE DOES NOT AFFECT NOCICEPTION IF ADMINISTERED POSTOPERATIVELY

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Proinflammatory cytokines, such as tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α), interleukin-1 (IL-1) and interleukin-6 (IL-6), act as mediators of post-injury inflammation and increase pain sensitivity. Pentoxifylline (PTX) has the property of inhibiting TNF-α, IL-1, and IL-6 production. Previous studies revealed that the pre-injury or preoperative administration of PTX inhibited consequent hyperalgesia or postoperative pain. The aim of the study was to determine, if postoperative PTX administration affects postoperative pain. A group of 40 patients undergoing laparotomic cholecystectomy received postoperatively PTX at 10 mg/kg or placebo directly after the termination of general anesthesia. There were no differences in postoperative pain, analgesic drug requirement or TNF-α and IL-6 serum levels between the groups.

Key words: pentoxifylline, cytokines, nociception, postoperative

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