

# Development of a novel opioid-free anesthesia protocol for laparoscopic surgery

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<b>Registration date</b> 02/12/2023	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 24/04/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

During the last decade, anesthesiologists have focused on opioid-free anesthesia (OFA). However, mitigating the hemodynamic response to the surgical stimulus required multimodal anesthesia that combines locoregional analgesia techniques to block nociceptive afferent neurons. This study aims to evaluate the efficacy and safety of OFA protocol employing transabdominal plane block and rectus sheath block in association with magnesium sulfate and NSAIDs in ensuring adequate intraoperative and postoperative pain control in laparoscopic abdominal surgery.

### Who can participate?

Consecutive patients aged 18 years old and over who planned for laparoscopic scheduled abdominal surgery and underwent general anesthesia at Villa Sofia Hospital of AOOR Villa Sofia-Cervello in Palermo, Italy

### What does the study involve?

Each patient will undergo a preoperative evaluation to evaluate anesthesiologist risk according to the ASA and sign the informed consent to be involved in the study at least 24 hours before the scheduled surgery.

Primary outcomes are postoperative pain control evaluated with a rating scale at each time-point and episodes of postoperative pain (defined as any episode with a numeric rating scale greater than or equal to 3) within 24 hours after extubation.

The secondary outcome is a composite of postoperative adverse events within the first 24 hours after extubation with mobilization recovery time and in-hospital length of stay.

### Sample size

The sample size calculation was based on the postoperative rating scale score from the literature. The anticipated percentage of scores >3 postoperatively was 40%. A 50% reduction in the OFA group is considered to be clinically relevant. A sample size calculation determined that 90 patients per group were needed in the study. We aimed to recruit an additional 20% of patients for drop-out or loss to follow-up.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The benefits include a possible better control of postoperative pain and a reduction in postoperative side effects such as nausea, vomiting, constipation, itching, and drowsiness. No particular risks are foreseen in executing this anesthetic protocol; however, none are greater than those linked to a standard anesthetic protocol.

Where is the study run from?

Department of Neuroscience and Emergency with Trauma Center, A.O.O.R. Villa Sofia Cervello (Italy)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

April 2019 to February 2023

Who is funding the study?

University Hospital Policlinico "Paolo Giaccone" of Palermo (Italy)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Giuseppe Accurso, Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Emergency, Policlinico Paolo Giaccone, Palermo, [giuseppe.accurso@policlinico.pa.it](mailto:giuseppe.accurso@policlinico.pa.it) (Italy)

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Public, Scientific, Principal Investigator

### Contact name

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## Additional identifiers

### EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

### IRAS number

### ClinicalTrials.gov number

Nil known

### Secondary identifying numbers

Nil known

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Opioid-free anesthesia with magnesium sulphate (OFAM) and regional parietal blocks (RPB) vs opioids inclusive anesthesia (OIA) in laparoscopic surgery. Postoperative pain control and adverse events during the first 24 hours after surgery.

### Study objectives

Compare the efficacy and safety of opioid-free anesthesia (OFA) protocol with bilateral transversus abdominis plane (TAP) block versus the conventional analgesic plan with opioids. The anticipated percentage of numerical rating scale (NRS) scores >3 postoperatively was 40%. We considered a 50% reduction in the OFA group to be clinically relevant.

### Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

### Ethics approval(s)

Approved 13/06/2019, Palermo2 Ethics Committee (Viale Strasburgo 233, Palermo, 90100, Italy; +39 0917801111; urp@ospedaliriunitipalermo.it), ref: n° 118 AOR/29-04-2019

### Study design

Monocenter interventional unblinded randomized controlled trial

### Primary study design

Interventional

### Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

### Study setting(s)

Hospital, Medical and other records

### Study type(s)

Treatment, Safety, Efficacy

### Participant information sheet

See study outputs table

### Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Intraoperative and postoperative pain control in laparoscopic abdominal surgery

### Interventions

Intervention groups

Preoperative management:

Based on ideal body weight (IBW), patients will be premedicated with 6 ml/kg crystalloids in 30 minutes, i.m. 75 mcg clonidine, and i.v. 0.05 mg/kg midazolam in bolus. Loco-regional anesthesia of the abdominal wall is performed by expert operators: first, single-shot ultrasound-guided (USG) bilateral TAP block with the administration of 25-30 ml of ropivacaine (0.3%) for each side,

in an overall volume of 50-60 ml, according to patient body mass index (BMI); finally, single-shot USG-bilateral RSB with the administration of 10 ml of ropivacaine (0.3%), for each side, in an overall volume of 20 ml, according to patient BMI. The efficacy and extension of the blocks will then be tested with a prick test after ten minutes. Five minutes before induction, a bolus of 30 mg/kg magnesium sulfate in 100 ml of 0.9% NaCl solution will be administered; after that, an intravenous infusion of 8 mg/kg/h magnesium sulfate 5% will be started.

#### **Intraoperative management:**

A continuous intravenous infusion of 90 mg ketorolac (2 ml/h) in a solution of 48 ml NaCl 0.9% will be administered 1 hour after the surgical incision.

The continuous intravenous infusion of magnesium sulfate will be stopped 5 minutes before the end of the surgery, and an i.v. A 1 g acetaminophen bolus will be administered over 15 minutes.

#### **Postoperative management:**

1 g of acetaminophen i.v. A bolus will be administered if the numerical rating scale (NRS) score > 3 in the 24 from the end of the surgery.

#### **Control Group**

##### **Preoperative management:**

Midazolam 0.05 mg/kg i.v.

##### **Intraoperative management:**

Target-controlled infusion (TCI) i.v. (3 to 5 ng/ml corresponding to 0.1 to 0.25  $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  of Remifentanyl. I.v. bolus 1 g acetaminophen plus i.v. Ondansetron (4 mg) was administered 30 minutes before the end of surgery.

##### **Postoperative management:**

Continuous infusion (2 ml/h) with an elastomeric pump of 90 mg ketorolac and 0.1 mg/kg/h morphine will be administered in the 24-hour postoperative period.

A flipping-a-coin method will be performed for randomization (heads = control, tails = treatment) to determine the assignment of each participant.

#### **Intervention Type**

Procedure/Surgery

#### **Primary outcome measure**

Pain measured using a Numerical Rating Scale (NRS) in the postoperative period at the end of surgery (T0) and at 6 (T1)-12 (T2)-18 (T3)-24 (T4) hours

#### **Secondary outcome measures**

Composite of postoperative adverse events such as hypoxemia, defined as a SpO<sub>2</sub> level of less than 95% with a need for oxygen supplementation; postoperative ileus, defined as an absence of flatus or stools; postoperative nausea and vomiting with the need for rescue antiemetic medication, unplanned intensive care unit (ICU) admission, mobilization recovery time and in-hospital length of stay measured using patient study records within the first 24 hours after extubation

#### **Overall study start date**

01/04/2019

#### **Completion date**

01/02/2023

## Eligibility

### Key inclusion criteria

Consecutive patients older than 18 years old who planned for laparoscopic scheduled abdominal surgery and will undergo general anesthesia

### Participant type(s)

Patient

### Age group

Mixed

### Lower age limit

18 Years

### Sex

Both

### Target number of participants

220

### Total final enrolment

379

### Key exclusion criteria

1. Age below 18 years old
2. Pregnant women
3. Confirmed diagnosis of hypermagnesemia, hyponatremia, hypocalcemia, hyperkalemia
4. Acidosis states
5. Acute or chronic kidney disease
6. Hypothyroidism
7. Hypoadrenocorticism
8. Neuromuscular disorders
9. Bradycardia
10. Bradyarrhythmia
11. Atrioventricular block
12. Pacemaker
13. Heart failure associated with hypotension and reduced cardiac function
14. Shock

### Date of first enrolment

01/10/2020

### Date of final enrolment

31/12/2022

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

Italy

**Study participating centre**

Department of Neuroscience and Emergency with Trauma Center, A.O.O.R. Villa Sofia Cervello.

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## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Policlinico "Paolo Giaccone" di Palermo

**Sponsor details**

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**Sponsor type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**Website**

<http://www.policlinico.pa.it/portal/>

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/05p21z194>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**Funder Name**

Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Policlinico "Paolo Giaccone" di Palermo

# Results and Publications

## Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a high-impact and peer-reviewed journal, such as the Journal of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Critical Care

## Intention to publish date

01/12/2023

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated or analyzed during the current study will be available upon request from Giuseppe Accurso, giuseppe.accurso@policlinico.pa.it. These data will be shared after the publication of the paper upon request. The data are anonymous and in MS EXCEL format.

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>			01/12/2023	No	Yes
<a href="#">Statistical Analysis Plan</a>			01/12/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>		23/04/2025	24/04/2025	Yes	No