



Malaysian Society of Paediatric
Anaesthesiologists (MSPA)



Asian Society of Paediatric
Anaesthesiologists

Dexmedetomidine in Paediatric Anesthesia

Z Serpil Ustalar Ozgen

ASPA 2024, Kuching Malaysia

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SAFE: Safe & Sustainable Anaesthesia for Every Child

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Disclosures ASPA Family



Outline

Benefits of dex in ped anesthesia

Potential adverse effects

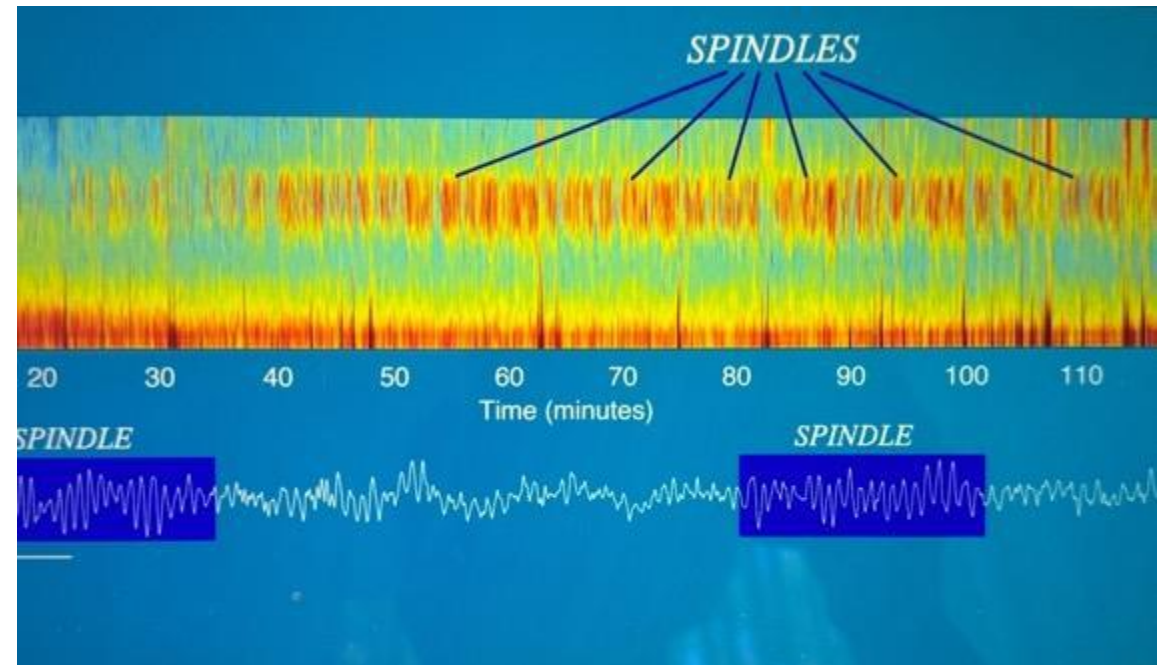
Indications for use

Clinical applications

Updates, Effective doses

Safety considerations

Future directions and research



What is dexmedetomidine?

Sedative

Despite a strong evidence base for the use of DEX in paediatric anaesthesia, its use is currently **'off-label'**

α_2 receptor activation



Dexmedetomidine in paediatric anaesthesia

R. Lin^{1,*} and J.M. Ansermino²

¹British Columbia Children's Hospital, Vancouver, BC, Canada and ²University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Highly selective α_2 agonist

- Parallels natural sleep
- Anxiolysis
- Sympatholysis
- ***Without clinically significant respiratory depression***

Pharmacokinetics vs Pharmacodynamics

Highly lipophilic

Vd high both in adults and children

Bound to plasma proteins; albumin and α_1 glycoprotein

Crosses BBB

Broken down by hepatic enzymes UDPGT and cytochrome P450 to inactive metabolites

Half-life 2 h (context sensitive; 4 min after 10 min infusion, 250 min after 8 h infusion)

Clearance changes with age; Neonates and <1 y reduced

Updates on Pharmacology

- ***DEX clearance***; significantly decreased at birth and increases over the first month in full-term neonates following cardiac surgery
- Scaled pharmacokinetic models in term neonates showed higher clearance of intravenous DEX compared to previous reports
- Age, weight, duration of cardiac bypass, and presence of an intracardiac shunt contribute
- DEX clearance in children with compromised hepatic function is inversely proportional to the international normalized ratio (INR)

Pediatric Anesthesia

Original Article

Identifying a rapid bolus dose of dexmedetomidine (ED50) with acceptable hemodynamic outcomes in children

Joy Dawes ✉, Dorothy Myers, Matthias Görge, Guohai Zhou, J Mark Ansermino, Carolyne J. Montgomery

Pediatric Anesthesia

High dose dexmedetomidine as the sole sedative for pediatric MRI

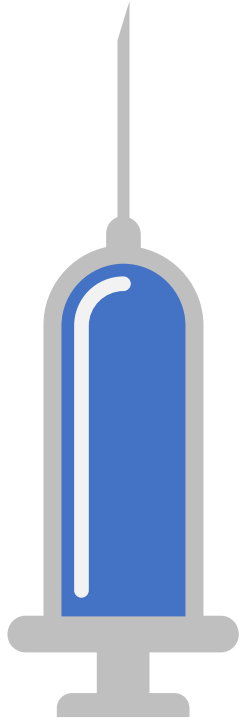
KEIRA P. MASON MD, DAVID ZURAKOWSKI PhD, STEVEN E. ZGLESZEWSKI MD, CAROLINE D. ROBSON MB, ChB, MAUREEN CARRIER RN, BSN, PAUL R. HICKEY MD, JAMES A. DINARDO MD ... See fewer authors ^

PK and PD

- Dose dependent effect on MAP and BP
- Mean ED50 i.v. given over 5 s without significant hemodynamic changes is 0.49 mic/kg TIVA
- Transient Dex-induced hypertension; after repeated boluses of 2-3 mic/kg
- Bradycardia %30 baseline

Routes of Administration

Dex other than vascular

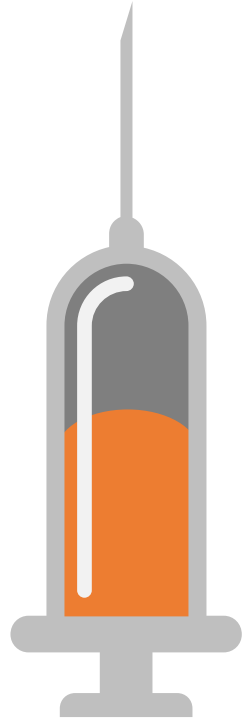


Intranasal

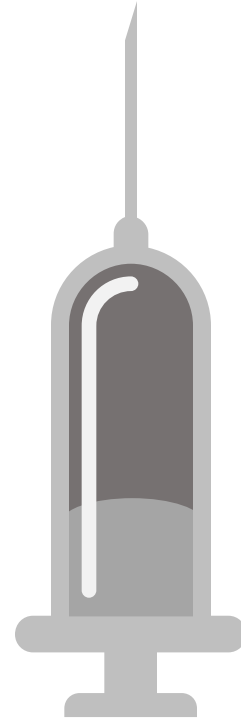
2-4 mic/kg, 1-3 mic/kg procedural sedation

Intranasal DEX achieved sedation within 20-45 minutes with 84% bioavail

Atomized

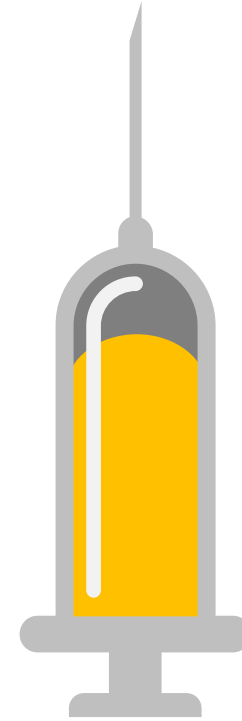


Intramuscular



Buccal

20% failure, may go oral



Subcutaneous

recently

Benefits of dexmedetomidine in pediatric anesthesia

Sedative properties /preserving
respiratory function

Analgesic effects

Anxiolytic properties

Hemodynamic stability /ability to
attenuate sympathetic responses to
surgical stimuli

Indications for use

Primary sedative agent

Adjunct to general anesthesia

Procedural sedation outside the OR

Tailoring dosage based on weight and age; individualized dosing regimens to achieve optimal sedation and analgesia while minimizing adverse effects

Uses for Surgical and Nonsurgical Procedures

ENT

Cardiac

Neonatal

Neurosurgery

ED

Procedures in Radiology

Use as an analgesic adjunct

'Postmedication'

A Comparison of the Sedative, Hemodynamic, and Respiratory Effects of Dexmedetomidine and Propofol in Children Undergoing Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Ahmet Koroglu, MD*

Huseyin Teksan, MD†

Ozlem Sagır, MD*

Aytaç Yucel, MD*

We compared the sedative, hemodynamic, and respiratory effects of dexmedetomidine and propofol in children undergoing magnetic resonance imaging procedures. Sixty children were randomly distributed into two groups: The dexmedetomidine (D) group received $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ initial dose followed by continuous infusion of $0.5 \mu\text{g} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$ and a propofol group (P) received $3 \text{mg}/\text{kg}$ initial dose followed by a continuous infusion of $100 \mu\text{g} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$. Inadequate sedation was defined as difficulty in completing the procedure because of the child's movement during magnetic resonance imaging. Mean arterial pressure (MAP), heart rate, oxygen saturation, and respiratory rate (RR) were recorded.

Anesth Analg. 2006
Jul;103(1):63-7

Dex/propofol 60 pt.s

***Propofol*; onset of sedation, recovery, discharge times significantly shorter, significantly lower MAP and RR**

***Dex*; less hypotension and desaturation**

Less respiratory depression

Original Article

SAGE Open Medicine

Dexmedetomidine provides less body motion and respiratory depression during sedation in double-balloon enteroscopy than midazolam

Hiroshi Oshima¹, Masanao Nakamura¹, Osamu Watanabe¹, Takeshi Yamamura², Kohei Funasaka¹, Eizaburo Ohno¹, Hiroki Kawashima¹, Ryoji Miyahara¹, Hidemi Goto¹ and Yoshiki Hirooka²

SAGE Open Medicine

Volume 5: 1–7

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Updates

Postprocedural applications

**Postanesthesia
recovery**

Neonatal ICU

Pediatric ICU

Palliative Care

Improves

**Critically ill;
bronchoscopy, first
attempt extubation
Decrease cough;
intratracheal 1 mic/kg
Decrease ED
Nausea & vomiting?
Ketamine delirium?**

Sedation

**0.2 mic/kg bolus,
0.2 mic/kg inf ?
<2 y decrease
doses
0.2-0.3 mic/kg
0.5 mic/kg
withdrawal
symptoms**

Sedation

**hasten weaning off
ventilator
facilitates
NIV,ventilator synch,
improves lung
recruitment
avoids invasive
ventilatory support
Prophy Tx (JET) post-
cardiac surgery**

**Sedation/Analgesia/
Anxiolysis**

**Arousable,
interactive
Intractable sleep
disorders**

Original Article

Dex 3 mic/kg
IN
Atomiser/drops

279 pt.s <3 years
undergoing Transthoracic ECHO
Success rate 84%/82%
Less successful in older children

A comparison of intranasal dexmedetomidine for sedation in children administered either by atomiser or by drops

B. L. Li,¹ N. Zhang,² J. X. Huang,¹ Q. Q. Qiu,² H. Tian,³ J. Ni,⁴ X. R. Song,⁴ V. M. Yuen⁵ and M. G. Irwin⁶

Updates

Airway collapsibility and Respiration

Mimicks
natural sleep

Safe in OSA and
Down
Syndrome

Maintain
spontaneous
ventilation

Upper airway
tone

DISA, Dynamic
airway imaging

Pulmonary
function testing
IN 2.64 mic/kg

Airway collapsibility and Respiration

Improve intubating
conditions
tracheal intubation
without NMB

Increase tolerance to
ETT

Decrease MAC Sevo
smooth extubation

Diminish laryngeal
responses

Obtunding airway
reflexes
Bronchoscopy

Updates

Inflammation and Immune System

**Antinflammatory
properties**

**Supress surgical
stress and
inflammation,
preserve immunity**

**Alleviates
perioperative stress**

**Stabilize the
integrity of blood-
spinal cord barrier**

**Improve neuronal
viability, protect the
spinal cord from
ischemia-
reperfusion injury**

**Reduce
inflammatory
cytokine levels**

Updates

Cardiovascular

Caution: Bradycardia

Depressed left ventricular function

Recent high degree AV block

Volume depletion

Drugs; digoxin, beta blockers, Ca-canal blockers, Amiodarone

**Relative
Contraindications
or precautions to
the use of Dex in
children**

Rapid bolus of dexmedetomidine with high blood concentrations of volatile anaesthetics

Cardiac conduction abnormalities

Septic shock

Concurrent treatment with digoxin, β -adrenergic blockers, calcium channel blockers, monoamine oxidase inhibitors or other agents that predispose to bradycardia or hypotension¹³

Chronic hypertension

Hepatic disease

Synergistic Effects



Regional
Anesthesia

Adjunct to LA;
increases duration, motor and esp sensory
blockade
prolongs analgesia increases patient
satisfaction
decreases postop opioid consumption



Anesthesia

Propofol and remifentanil infusion
15-20 % decreases
0.5-2 mic/kg preop

Updates

Thermal Regulation

Decreases
vasoconstriction;
role in
thermoregulatory
shivering

Adult studies ;
superiority over
placebo

Febrile episodes
– case reports

Temperature
monitoring!

Updates
Organ
protective
effects
Neuroprotective

- Alleviate brain damage caused by anesthetics, reducing apoptosis in cortical and subcortical regions (animal)
- Reversed the damage in cognitive decline and inflammation via vagomimetic and humoral pathways
- Protects spinal cord against lidocaine-induced spinal neurotoxicity
- TBI; prevented tissue loss and cell death, also reduced axonal injury and synaptic degeneration, resulting in improvement of motor function

Pan, W.; Lin, L.; Zhang, N.; Yuan, F.; Hua, X.; Wang, Y.; Mo, L. Neuroprotective Effects of Dexmedetomidine Against Hypoxia-Induced Nervous System Injury are Related to Inhibition of NF-kappaB/COX-2 Pathways. Cell. Mol. Neurobiol. 2016, 36, 1179–1188.

Perez-Zoghbi, J.F.; Zhu, W.; Grafe, M.R.; Brambrink, A.M. Dexmedetomidine-mediated neuroprotection against sevoflurane-induced neurotoxicity extends to several brain regions in neonatal rats. Br. J. Anaesth. 2017, 119, 506–516.

Shan, Y.; Yang, F.; Tang, Z.; Bi, C.; Sun, S.; Zhang, Y.; Liu, H. Dexmedetomidine Ameliorates the Neurotoxicity of Sevoflurane on the Immature Brain Through the BMP/SMAD Signaling Pathway. Front. Neurosci. 2018, 12, 964

Updates *Organ protective effects* Renoprotective

- Possible protective effect on cardiac surgery-associated acute kidney injury
- Promotes renal blood flow via inhibiting vasoconstriction
- Promotes diuresis effect via decreasing renin and arginine vasopressin
- Increases glomerular filtration
- Reduces reactive oxygen species
- Decreases systemic inflammatory response
- Reduces renal cell death

Bayram, A.; Ulgey, A.; Baykan, A.; Narin, N.; Narin, F.; Esmoğlu, A.; Boyacı, A. The effects of dexmedetomidine on early stage renal functions in pediatric patients undergoing cardiac angiography using non-ionic contrast media: A double-blind, randomized clinical trial. *Paediatr. Anaesth.* 2014, 24, 426–432.

- (6 months–6 years) received intravenous iodine contrast for cardiac angiography
- The use of DEX as an adjuvant to sedative agents decreased elevation in plasma endothelin, renin, and markers of acute renal injury in these children- RCT

Updates *Organ protective effects* Cardioprotective

- Mediated via the cholinergic anti-inflammatory pathway
- Blocks the sympathetic nervous system
- Blunts hemodynamic responses to perioperative stress
- Controls heart rate
- Optimizes blood flow in the coronary arteries

- DEX-ketamine combination can attenuate myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury during cardiac surgery

*Ríha, H.; Kotulák, T.; Březina, A.; Hess, L.; Kramář, P.; Szárszoi, O.; Netuka, I.; Pirk, J. Comparison of the effects of ketamine-dexmedetomidine and sevoflurane-sufentanil anesthesia on cardiac biomarkers after cardiac surgery: An observational study. *Physiol. Res.* 2012, 61, 63–72.*

ketamine-DEX-based anesthesia on the release of cardiac biomarkers was compared with that of sevoflurane/sufentanil-based anesthesia

Safety considerations /Adverse effects and how to manage

**Bradycardia, hypotension,
prolonged sedation**

**Drug interactions and
precautions**

Dex induced bradycardia

Anticholinergics should be avoided in the absence of hemodynamic instability

Small doses of glycopyrolate – severe hypertension in pt.s receiving Dex

Have not been reported of clinical relevance, like in natural sleep

Positive effect on SVT – IN 4mic/kg –case report

Not associated with a reduction in PSVT inducibility

