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Pain Management In Perforated Appendicitis: Transitioning To A Minimal Narcotic Strategy

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Pain Management in Perforated Appendicitis: Transitioning to a Minimal Narcotic Strategy

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Introduction

- Patient controlled analgesia (PCA) was previous standard for postoperative pain control for perforated appendicitis at our institution.
- We have since transitioned to a PCA-free. multi-modal pain control (MMPC) regimen postoperatively in perforated appendicitis.
 - Scheduled 48-hr IV Tylenol & Toradol
- We aim to describe the impact of our new pain control regimen on postoperative narcotic use.

Methods

- Single institution
- Prospective, observational study
- January 2018-June 2020
- Patients <18 yrs old who underwent laparoscopic appendectomy for perforated appendicitis

Results

Total Patients = 400 56% male Sex Age (years) 10.5 (7.8, 13.0) 65% caucasian Race BMI (kg/m^2) 18.7 (15.9, 22.8) **Hospital LOS** 3.1 (2.2, 4.2) (days)

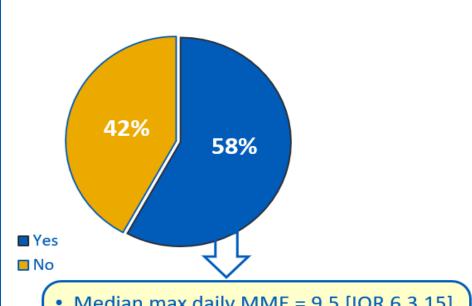
Postoperative

- Scheduled 48-hr IV Tylenol and Toradol were given.
 - 96% received IV Toradol (7 median doses [IQR 5,11]).
 - 94% received IV Tylenol (7 median doses [IQR 4,8]).
- Median pain scores were highest in the first 12 hours after surgery (median pain score 5 [IQR 3,7]).

Discharge

- 65% of patients discharged with an oral narcotic prescription with median prescribed outpatient max daily MME of 30 [IQR 16.2, 30].
 - 40% of those patients had not required any narcotics post-op.





- Median max daily MME = 9.5 [IQR 6.3,15].
- Only 3 patients (0.8%) patients required escalation to PCA for uncontrolled pain.

Conclusions

- Multimodal pain regimen limits narcotic use post-operatively in perforated appendicitis
- May contribute to decreased LOS compared to prior studies.
- Discharge pain medication prescription protocolization is the next step to further reduce unnecessary narcotic exposure.





