A study of children complications after dental general anesthesia procedure

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Children's safety with pediatric dental general anesthesia (PDGA) procedure could be evaluated by the post-operative complication rate reported. Review of PDGA procedure reports showed a great variation in having post-operative complaints. The purposes of this study were to determine postoperative complications type, frequency, severity and duration which associated with PDGA procedure and to overview the correlated factors to post-operative complications.

Study sample included 90 children attending PDGA procedure at three hospitals in Jeddah. Data were collected in pre-designed forms which include demographic, anesthetic, dental treatment and post-operative complications data. Post-operative children complaints were assessed by their patients in the first and third days after operation.

Results showed that 99% of the children had more complaints in the first day in contrast to only 33.3% in the third day. Inability to eat (85.5%), sleepiness (71%) and dental pain (47.8%) were the most common complaints in the first day. Age, gender and the dental treatment of the patients were the factors that showed a significant relationship with some post-operative complaints. A great significant complaint reduction was reported by the third post-operative day.

In conclusion, post-operative morbidity for PDGA was common, but mostly of mild severity and limited to the first day. Hospital staff efforts should be directed to control commonly reported post-operative complaints.