Comparison 2.r. Patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) nalbuphine compared with PCA pethidine

Source:† Ullman R, Smith LA, Burns E, Mori R, Dowswell T. Parenteral opioids for maternal pain management in labour. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010;(9):CD007396.

Quality assessment							No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
No. of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	PCA nalbuphine	PCA pethidine	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Pain relief in labour measured in the postnatal period (rated "good" or "excellent")												
1	RCT	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	very serious[b]	none	22/30 (73.3%)	17/30 (56.7%)	RR 1.29 (0.88–1.89)	164 more per 1000 (from 68 fewer to 504 more)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical
Would use the same pain relief again												
1	RCT	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	very serious[b]	none	23/30 (76.7%)	21/29 (72.4%)	RR 1.06 (0.79–1.43)	43 more per 1000 (from 152 fewer to 311 more)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical
Pain score in labour												
1	RCT	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	serious[c]	none	30	30	-	MD 0.51 lower (1.02 lower to 0)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical
Women receiving other analgesia (nitrous oxide and oxygen)												
1	RCT	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	very serious[d]	none	12/30 (40.0%)	14/29 (48.3%)	RR 0.83 (0.46–1.48)	82 fewer per 1000 (from 232 more to 261 fewer)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical
Nausea and vomiting												
1	RCT	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	very serious[d]	none	7/30 (23.3%)	10/29 (34.5%)	RR 0.68 (0.30–1.54)	110 fewer per 1000 (from 186 more to 241 fewer)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical
Apgar score < 7 at 5 minutes												
1	RCT	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	very serious[d]	none	0/18 (0.0%)	1/23 (4.3%)	RR 0.42 (0.02–9.76)	25 fewer per 1000 (from 43 fewer to 381 more)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical

CI: confidence interval; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RR: risk ratio; SMD: standardized mean difference.

[a] Effect estimate from single study with a moderate risk of bias.

[b] Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect and small sample size.

[c] Small sample size.

[d] Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect, small sample size and few events.

† Updated for the purpose of this guideline.