

Comparison 2.s. Patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) fentanyl 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.

No. of studies	Study design	Quality assessment					Other considerations	No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision			PCA fentanyl	PCA pethidine	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Pain score in labour													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	54	53	-	MD 0.65 lower (1.56 lower to 0.26 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Epidural													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	8/54 (14.8%)	18/53 (34.0%)	RR 0.44 (0.21-0.92)	190 fewer per 1000 (from 27 fewer to 268 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	critical	
Assisted vaginal birth													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^c	none	6/46 (13.0%)	8/35 (22.9%)	RR 0.57 (0.22-1.49)	98 fewer per 1000 (from 112 more to 178 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Caesarean section													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^c	none	1/46 (2.2%)	3/35 (8.6%)	RR 0.25 (0.03-2.34)	64 fewer per 1000 (from 83 fewer to 115 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Maternal sleepiness during labour													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	54	53	-	MD 0.06 lower (0.25 lower to 0.13 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Nausea and vomiting													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^c	none	20/51 (39.2%)	23/51 (45.1%)	RR 0.87 (0.55-1.37)	59 fewer per 1000 (from 167 more to 203 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Neurobehavioural score (15 minutes post-delivery)													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	38	25	-	MD 0.9 lower (2.31 lower to 0.51 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	

† Updated for the purpose of this guideline.

No. of studies	Study design	Quality assessment					No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	PCA fentanyl	PCA pethidine	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Neurobehavioural score (2 hours post-delivery)												
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	38	26	-	MD 0.5 lower (1.95 lower to 0.95 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical

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

^a Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect and small sample size.

^b Small sample size and few events.

^c Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect, small sample size and few events.

^b Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect, small sample size and few events.

^c Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect and small sample size.

^h Small sample size.