



Confounding Factors on the Comparison of Diclofenac Versus Ketoprofen as a Transdermal Drug Delivery System

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To the Editor:

I read with great interest the article by Jadhav and colleagues in a recent issue of the journal [1]. The authors conducted a randomized clinical trial involving 50 patients undergoing maxillofacial surgery and concluded that ketoprofen transdermal patch was slightly better than diclofenac transdermal patch with respect to analgesic efficacy. The authors should be applauded for performing a well-designed study in an important topic (e.g., acute pain) in patients undergoing elective surgery [2, 3]. The need to improve postoperative recovery by reducing moderate/severe postoperative pain makes the topic very important in maxillofacial surgery [4, 5].

Although the study of Jadhav et al. was well designed, there are some critical points that need to be clarified by the authors to determine the validity of their findings. First, it is unclear if the intraoperative and postoperative analgesic requirements were standardized for the study groups as this is important as it can affect the main outcome. Second, the authors performed multiple comparisons, but did not adjust their analysis to avoid a Type I error. Finally, it is unclear who collected the data regarding postoperative pain scores. The collection of pain scores performed by clinical nurses has been shown to be biased for analgesic studies, and this may have contributed for additional biases in the study results [6].

I would welcome some comments by the authors as this would help to further support the findings of this important study.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The author has no conflict of interest.

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