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OP 4 Post Dural Puncture Headache Changes Headache Characteristics of Chronic Headache

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Background: There are limited data about the incidence of chronic headache and other symptoms of postdural puncture headache (PDPH). We aimed to determine the incidence of chronic headache in patients who had PDPH after cesarean section (ACS) under spinal anesthesia.

Method: This study included the data of 33 patients who had treated for PDPH with Theophylline infusion or epidural blood patch in our Algology clinic from December 2014 to July 2019. Thirty-one patients were contacted and a survey questionnaire was administered for chronic (>6 months) headache, the numeric rating scale (NRS), using attack medicines and associated symptoms (allodynia, nausea and vomiting, photophobia and phonophobia, premonitory symptoms and headache characteristics) which have developed following PDPH. Patients who had chronic headache before cesarean section (BCS) were also asked for previous complaints.

Results: Ten (32.3%) participants were already had chronic headache BCS. Differences noted before and after PDPH [consecutively; allodynia n:4-n:7(40%– 70%), premonitory symptoms n:3-n:4(30%-40%), nausea-vomiting n:5-n:6(50%-60%), photophyphia-phonophobia n:4-n:5(40%-50%), ≥3 attack medicine use in a month n:5-n:8(50%-80%)]. NRS score changed 3.5 to 4 (p<0.001) Six participants (19.4) developed chronic headache after PDPH. Four (66%) patients has allodynia, 1 has premonitory symptoms, 2 has nausea-vomiting, 2 has photophyphia-phonophobia, 4 has ≥3 attack medicine use in a month. NRS score was 4.06 in patients who had chronic headache after PDPH.

Conclusion: The headache characters of patients with chronic headache may change with PDPH. Our findings indicated that chronic headache may develop after PDPH. Prospective randomized controlled studies with large sample sizes are needed.