

# Atypical intravenous analgesics

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# Declaration of interests

- I have received payment for presentations and advisory board membership from Pfizer and Grunenthal
- I have received financial support from Astellas Pharma for a conference visit

# What am I talking about?

- The probable mechanisms and evidence for the efficacy of iv atypical analgesics in acute pain...
- And a bit about the prevention of PPP
- I'm not talking about gabapentinoids as they have very poor evidence for acute pain...
- And minimal evidence for prevention of PPP
- I'm not talking about clonidine, dexmedetomidine or steroids – because I haven't got time
- So that leaves... ketamine, magnesium and lidocaine

ERAS <http://erassociety.org>

- Henrik Kehlet – Copenhagen, late 90's
- Aim is risk free pain free surgery
- Ask each day “what is keeping this patient in hospital?”
- Initially simple few interventions to improve recovery
- However has now got really complicated with many unnecessary additions
- Risk assessment needs to link surgical and non-surgical complications
- Need to re focus on the underlying problem after surgery – the pro inflammatory state that is the stress response

# The trouble with epidurals

- Epidural analgesia is becoming uncommon – why?
- Provides superior analgesia for first 48 hours and reduces respiratory complications Rigg, J.R.A., et al., Lancet. 2002. p. 1276–1282. but...
- Neurological complications Cook, T.M., et al., BJA. 2009. p. 179-190.
  - NAP3 looked at perioperative, obstetric and chronic pain
  - Highest risk of serious neurological complications with perioperative epidural
  - 8-17/100000 with 60% recovering within 12 months
  - Is it appropriate to abandon epidural anaesthesia on the basis of safety?
- What about the risk of perioperative death or other complications?

# Epidural meta-analysis

Annals of Surgery Volume 259, Number 6, June 2014

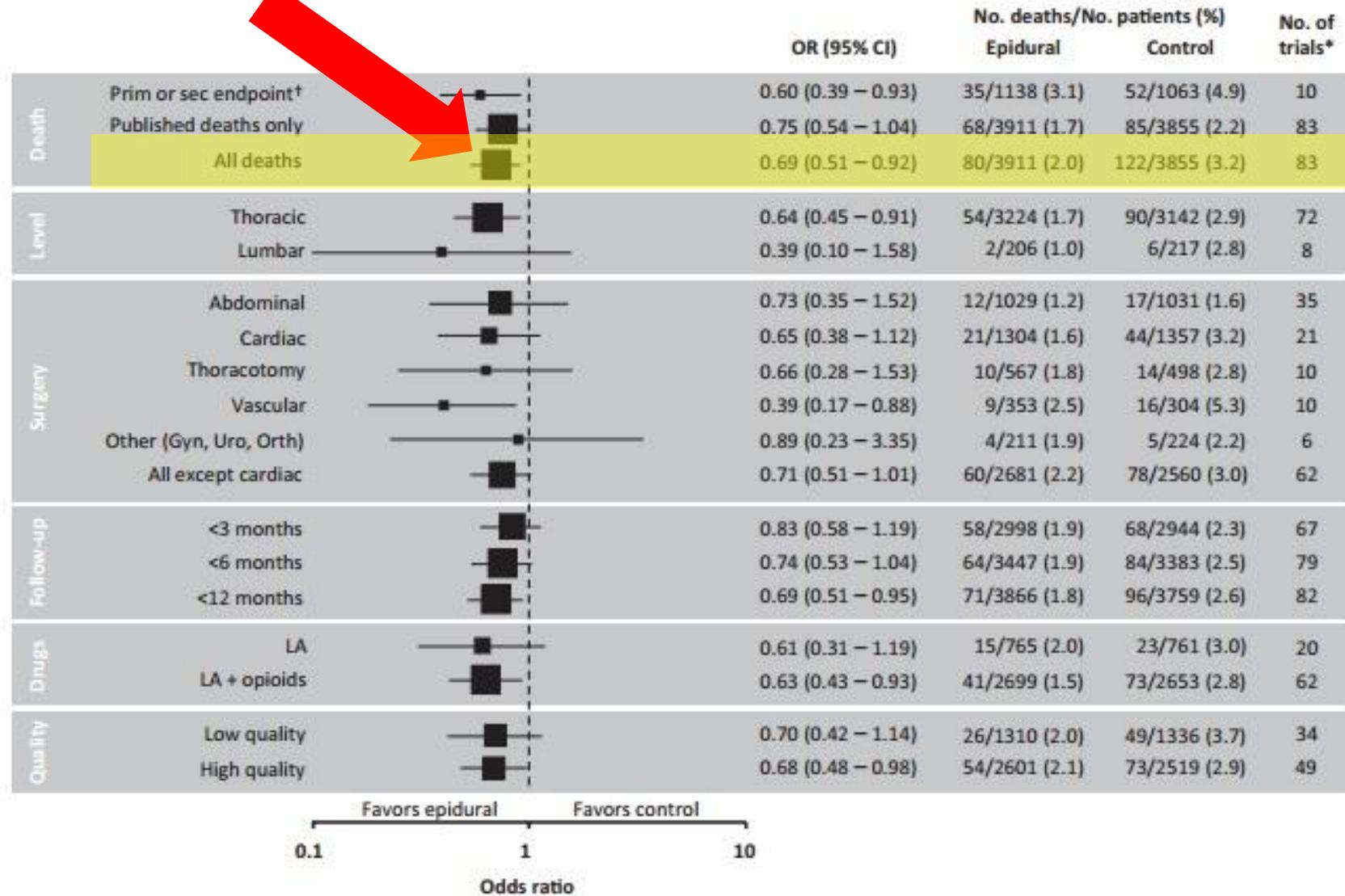
## Impact of Epidural Analgesia on Mortality and Morbidity After Surgery

*Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials*

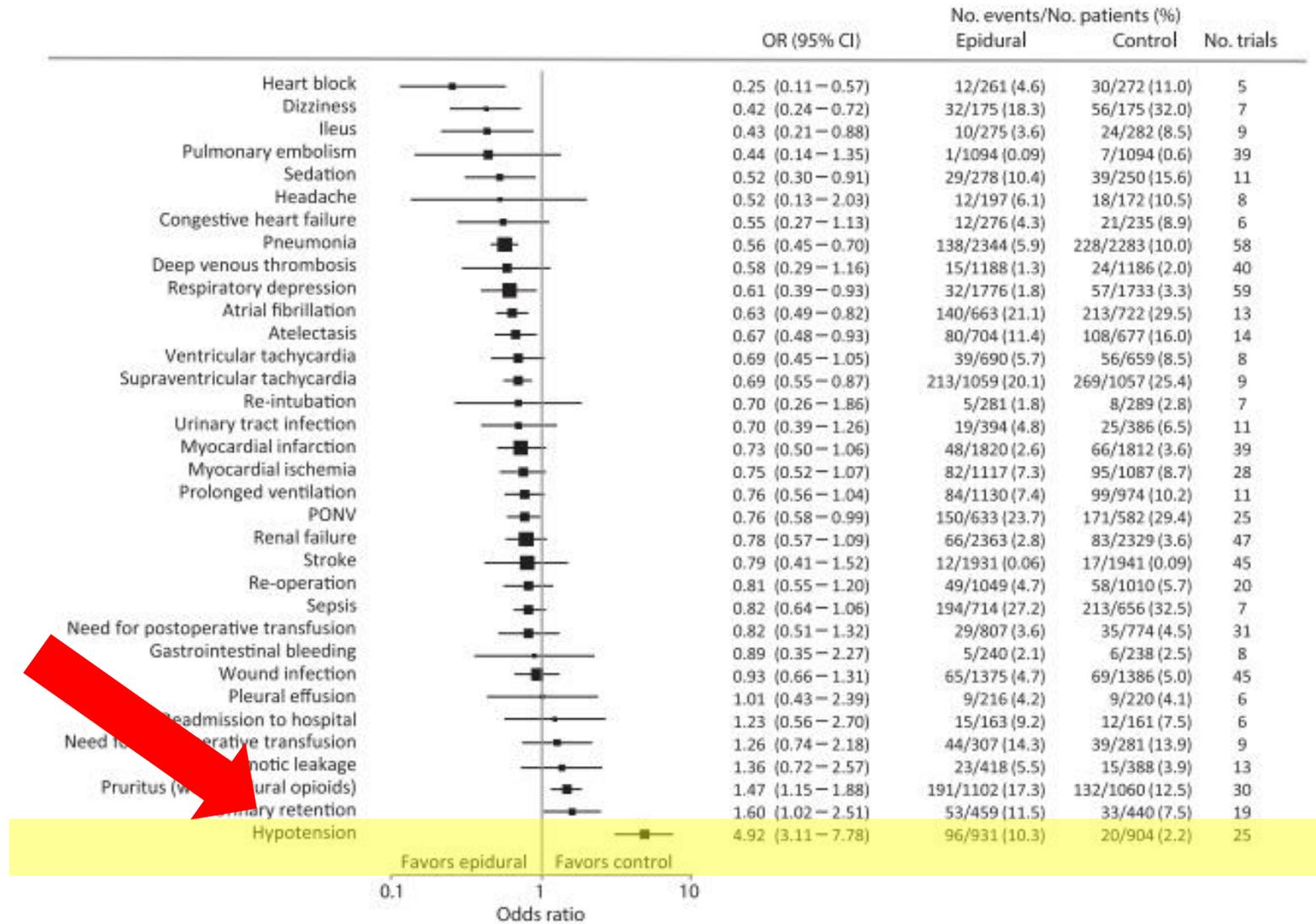
*Daniel M. Pöpping, MD,\* Nadia Elia, MD, MSc,† Hugo K. Van Aken, MD,\* Emmanuel Marret, MD,‡  
Stephan A. Schug, MD,§ Peter Kranke, MD, MBA,¶ Manuel Wenk, MD,\* and Martin R. Tramèr, MD, DPhil||*

- 125 trials n=9044 surgery under GA
- Epidurals with local anaesthesia for > 24 hours
- Versus systemic analgesia

# Post-operative mortality

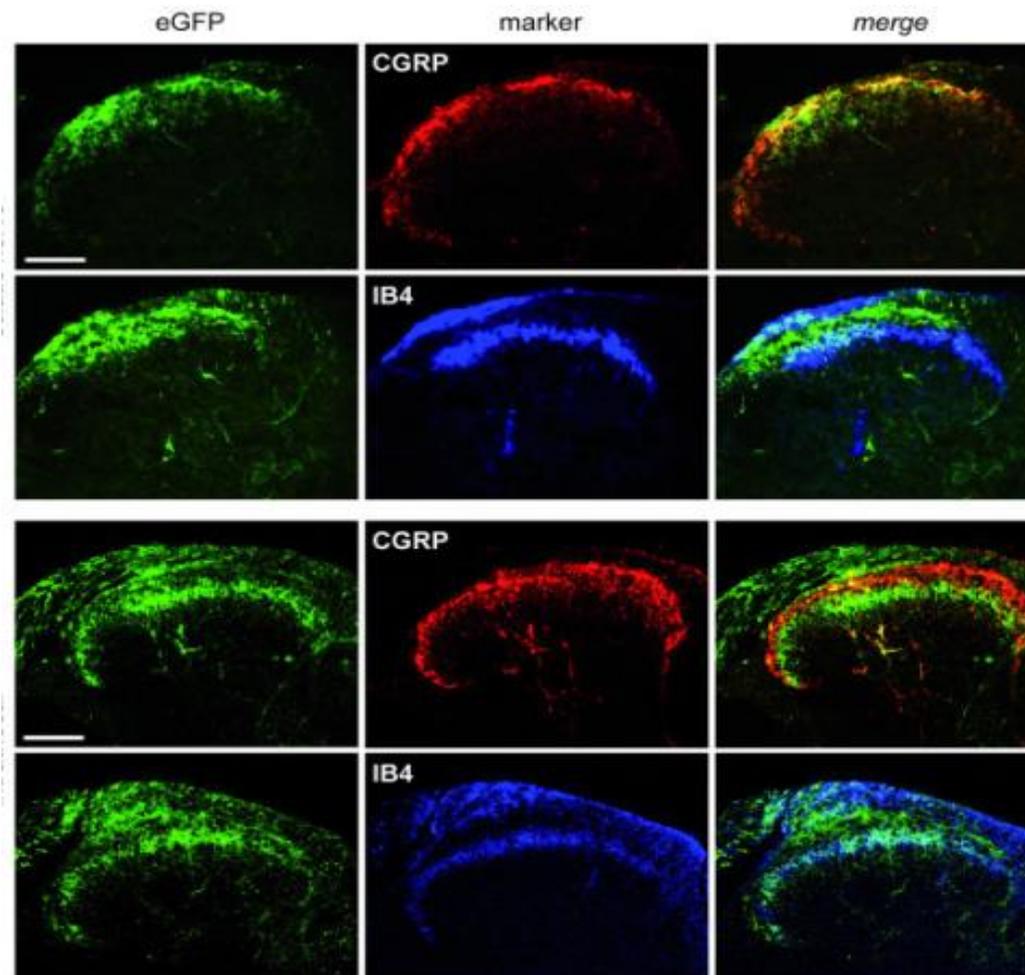


# Post operative complications



# Alternatives to epidural analgesia

- Hypotension is bad
- Epidurals (can be) bad
- Without epidurals we use more opioids (which are bad)...
- So what are the alternatives??
- Understanding the neuroplastic processes occurring after surgery aids understanding of how and where alternative analgesics (and antihyperalgesics) might work...



# Mechanisms of post-surgical pain

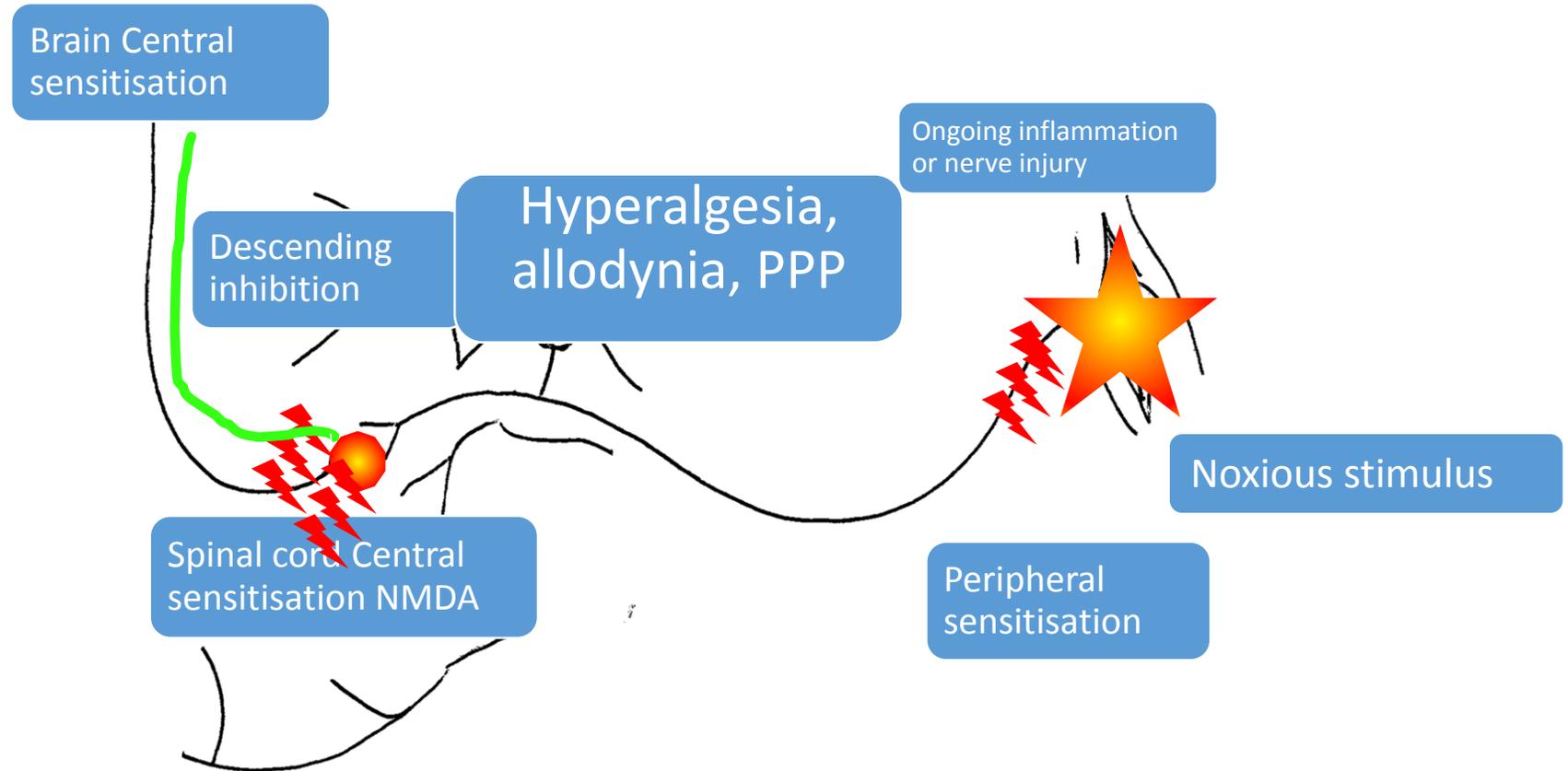
Nociception, peripheral and central sensitisation – what are the potential targets for atypical analgesics (antihyperalgesics)

# What happens after surgery?

The neurobiology of post surgical pain

- Inflammatory response (IL1 TNF $\alpha$  BK PGs etc..)
- Nerve injury
- Peripheral sensitisation
  - Increased responsiveness and reduced threshold of nociceptive neurons in the periphery to the stimulation of their receptive fields
- Central sensitisation
  - Increased responsiveness of nociceptive neurons in the central nervous system to their normal or subthreshold afferent input

# Neuroplastic processes occurring after surgery



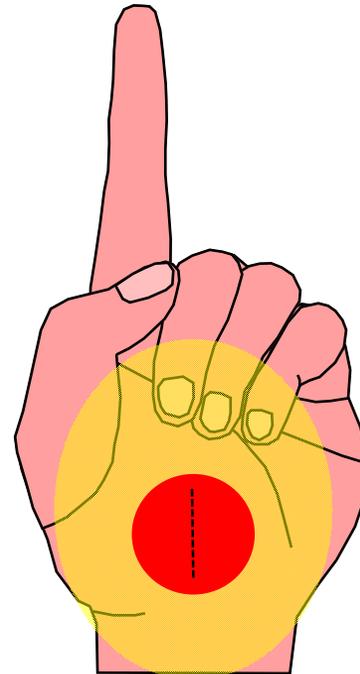
# Clinical findings following surgical trauma

Arendt-Nielsen 2006 Anaesthesiology 104:601-607

- Primary hyperalgesia (mechanical and heat)
- Allodynia
- Spontaneous pain

- Secondary hyperalgesia (mechanical only) – represents central sensitisation

- Apply anti-hyperalgesic drug



Peripheral injury

Warncke, T., Stubhaug, A., & Jorum, E. (1997). Ketamine, an NMDA receptor antagonist, suppresses spatial and temporal properties of burn-induced secondary hyperalgesia in man: a double-blind, cross-over comparison with morphine and placebo. *Pain*, 72(1-2), 99–106.

# Neuroplasticity in acute pain

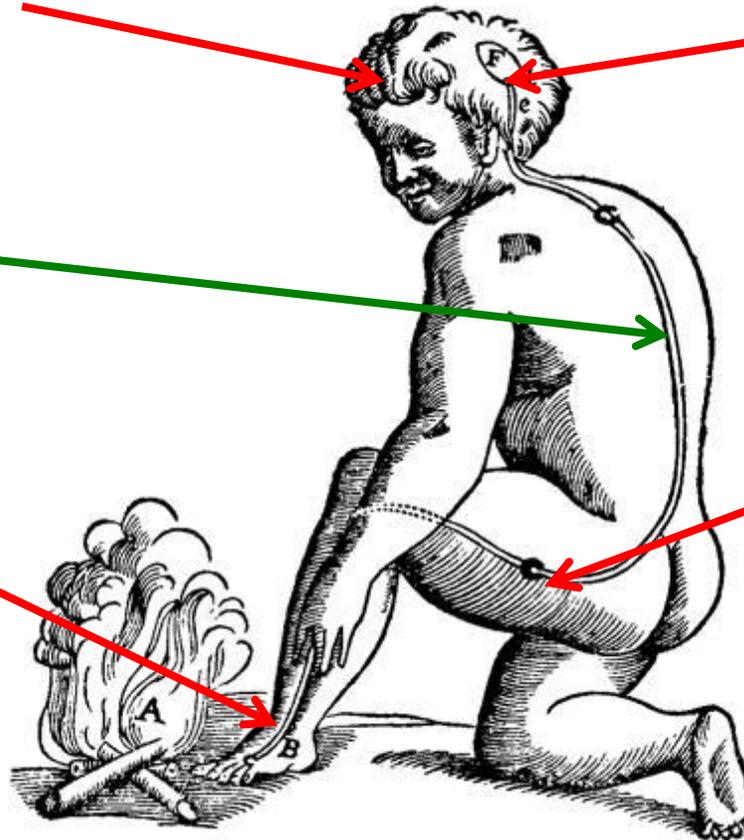
Pain perception modulated by peripheral and central (psychological) events

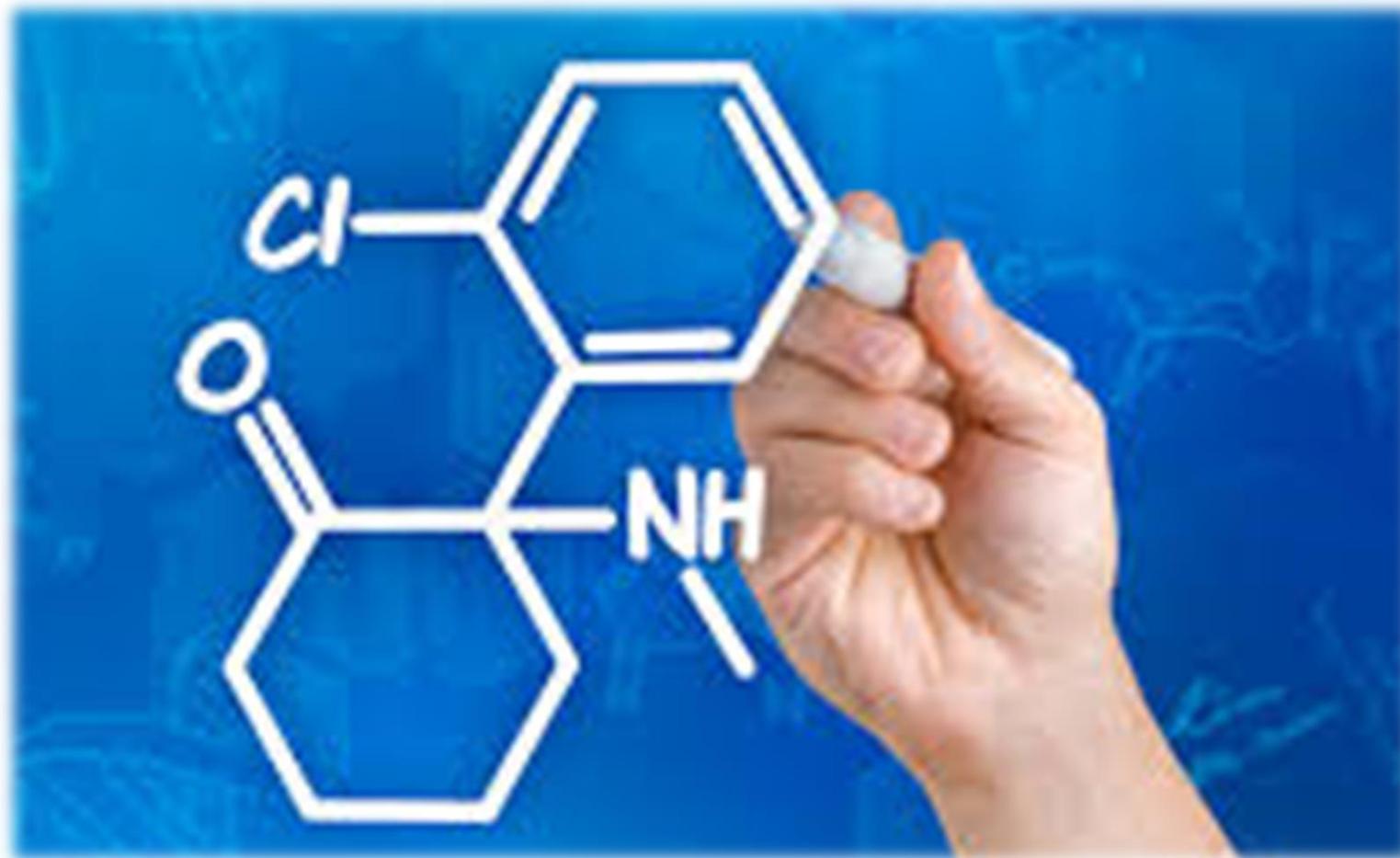
Descending inhibition modulates central sensitisation

Inflammation / nerve injury drives peripheral sensitisation

Brain central sensitisation depends on balance of excitation / inhibition

Increased afferent barrage drives spinal cord central sensitisation



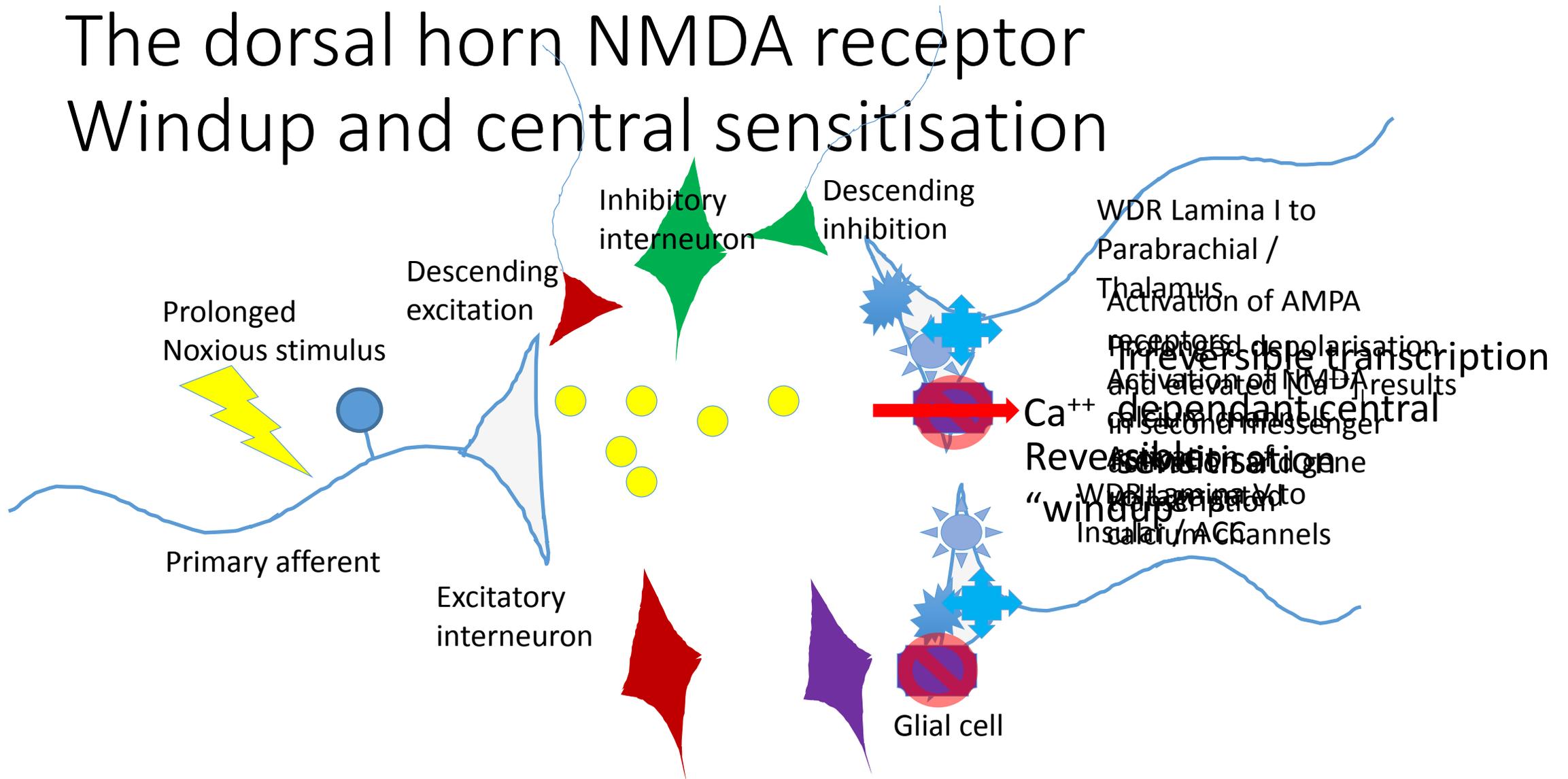


Ketamine

# Introduction

- Ketamine is a phencyclidine derivative first synthesised in 1963
- It was first approved for clinical use in 1970 as a 'dissociative anaesthetic'
- It's primary target, the NMDA receptor is implicated in central sensitisation, resulting in hyperalgesia and allodynia as well as opioid tolerance and opioid induced hyperalgesia
- NMDA glutamatergic neurotransmission is also implicated in learning and memory, cognition, neural development, neuroplasticity, excitotoxicity, addiction, and psychiatric disorders

# The dorsal horn NMDA receptor Windup and central sensitisation



# Mechanism of ketamine analgesia

- Non-competitive antagonism of the NR2B NMDA sub-unit is probably the most important anti-nociceptive effect
- In addition to its well-known NMDA blockade, ketamine affects a wide range of intracellular neuronal processes
- The analgesic effects of ketamine appear to involve both short term and long term disturbance of cellular function
- Immediate analgesic effects mediated by a combination of opioid system sensitisation and descending aminergic anti-nociception (via serotonergic and noradrenergic activation and inhibition of their re-uptake)
- Anti-neuropathic effect: may rely on immediate receptor mediated action and initiation of longer lasting cell signalling cascades (synaptic plasticity / apoptosis)
- Anti-inflammatory effect: inhibiting inflammatory cell recruitment, cytokine production and down-regulating inflammatory mediators

# Ketamine side-effects

- Ketamine induces visual hallucinations and out of body experiences which has led to its increasing recreational abuse (dose related psychotomimetic effects)
- Case reports of chronic abusers have demonstrated multiple neuropsychiatric complications including cognitive impairment and schizophrenia-like symptoms
- About 20-30% of chronic ketamine abusers report urinary tract symptoms due to ketamine-induced vesicopathy +/- hydroureter (Tawfic 2013)
- Hepatotoxicity +/- cholangiopathy and corneal oedema with endothelial cell loss is also reported in chronic users
- In general these complications are reversible and cessation of abuse is the best treatment (Tawfic 2013)

# Specific roles for ketamine as an antihyperalgesic

- Ketamine acts as an adjuvant in the treatment of pain associated with central sensitisation (an anti-hyperalgesic):
  - Severe acute pain
  - Neuropathic pain
  - “Opioid-resistant” pain
- Due to its effects on long lasting neuroplastic events, it is likely ketamine also impacts on persistent post surgical pain (a preventive analgesic):
  - Meta-analysis found benefit in reducing the incidence of PPP at 3 months (NNT 12) and 6 months (NNT 14) but not at 12 months postoperatively (Chaparro 2013 Cochrane 14 RTCs n=1388)

## **A systematic review of intravenous ketamine for postoperative analgesia**

### **Revue méthodique de l'utilisation de la kétamine intraveineuse pour l'analgésie postopératoire**

**Kevin Laskowski, MD · Alena Stirling, MD ·  
William P. McKay, MD · Hyun J. Lim, MD**

Received: 9 November 2010 / Accepted: 8 July 2011 / Published online: 20 July 2011  
© Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society 2011

- Perioperative use of ketamine (70 trials n=4701)
- From 1966 to 2010 randomized, double-blinded, and placebo controlled
- Using intravenous ketamine (bolus or infusion) to decrease postoperative pain
- Studies using any form of regional anaesthesia were excluded.
- No limitation on the ketamine dose, patient age, or language of publication

# Meta-analysis of analgesic effects

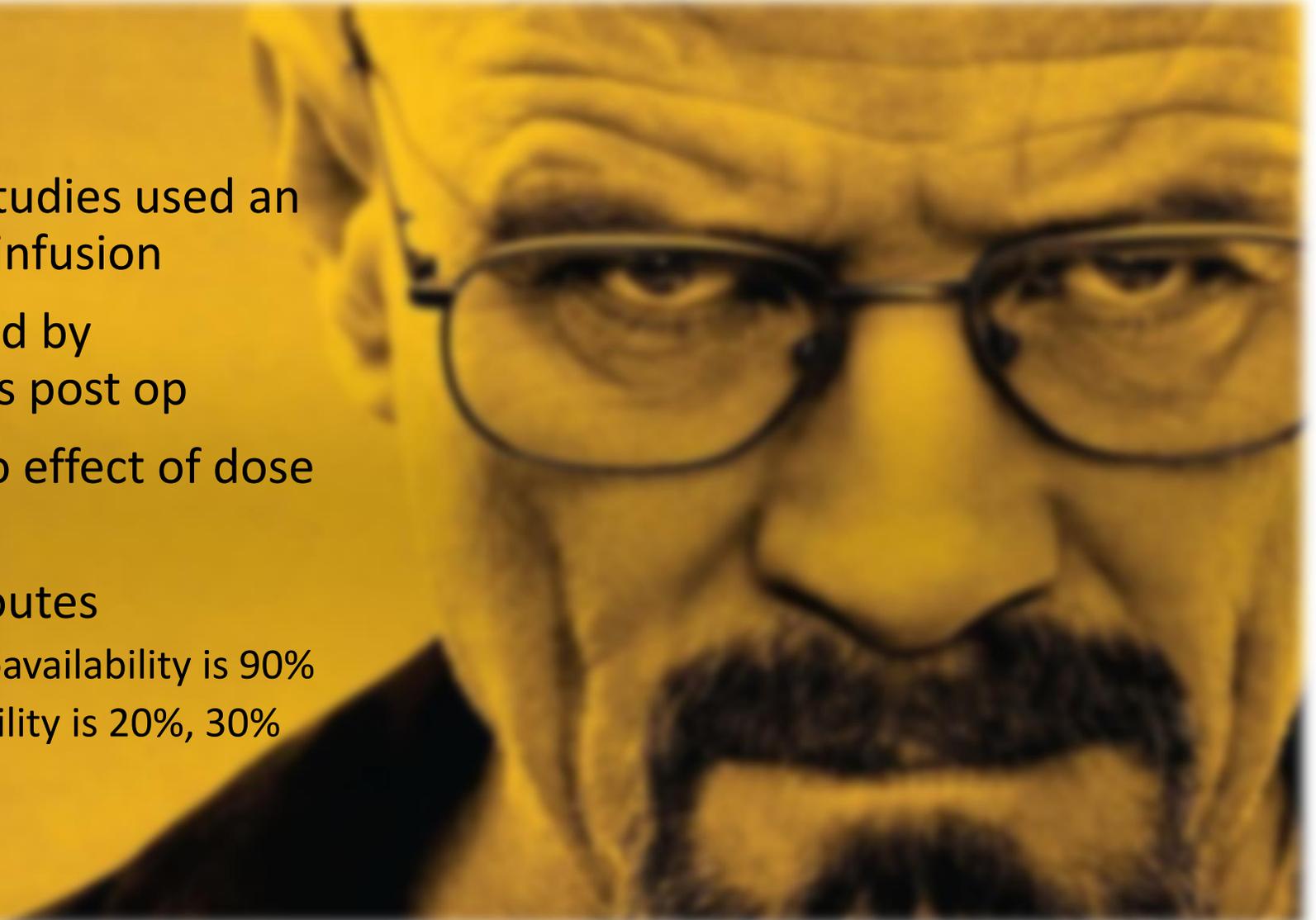
- Reduced total opioid consumption and an increase in the time to first analgesic were observed across all studies ( $P < 0.001$ ).
- Opioid sparing was highest in painful procedures with a max VAS of 7 or more.
- 37.5% of studies showed a significant decrease in early pain scores (30 min-4 hr)
- 25% showed a significant decrease in late pain scores (24-72 hr).
- 78% of the placebo groups experienced significantly more pain (with more opioid)
- Greatest efficacy was found for thoracic, upper abdominal, and major orthopaedic surgical subgroups

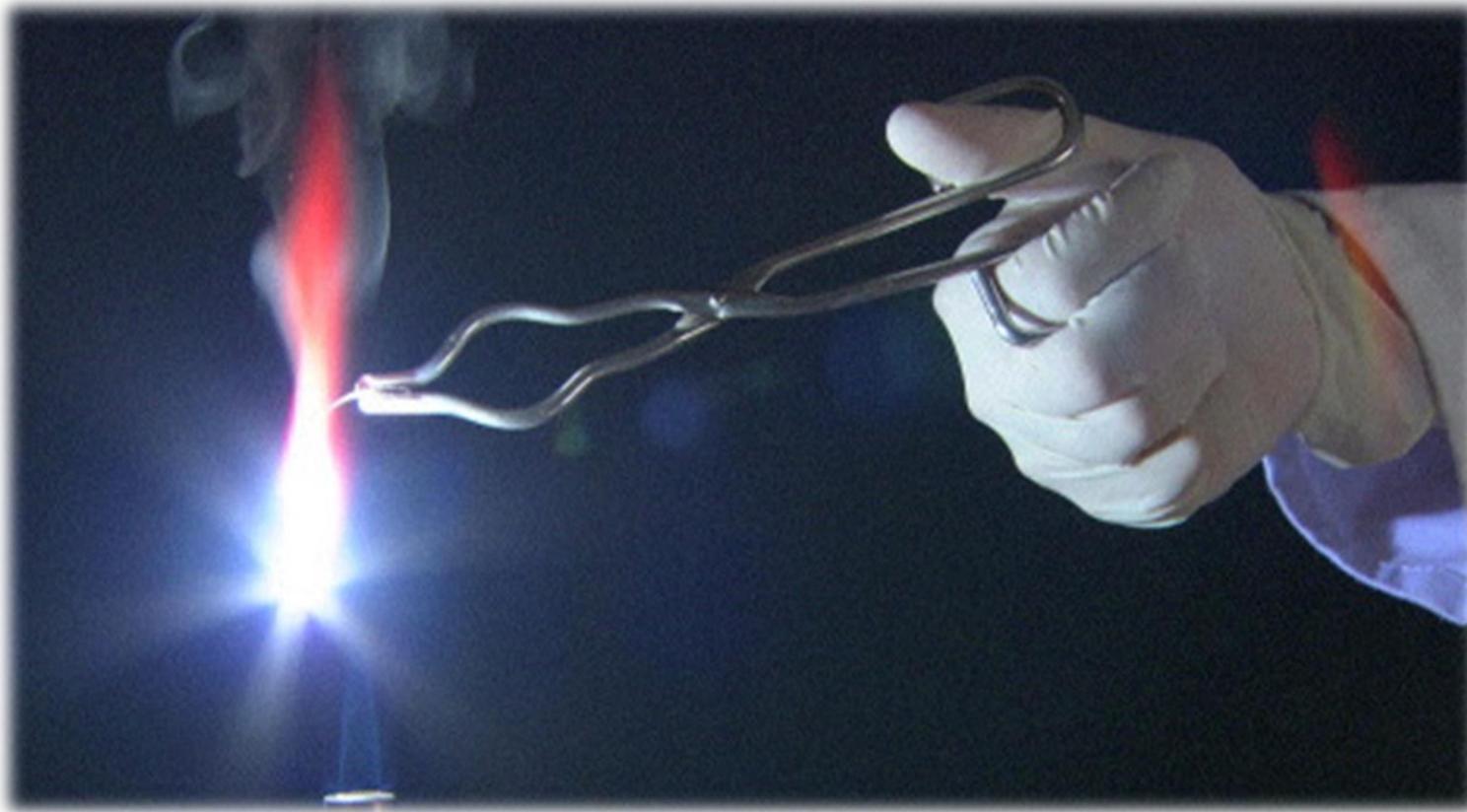
# Meta-analysis of side effects

- Increased neuropsychiatric effects ( $P = 0.018$ )
- Decreased PONV ( $P = 0.018$ )
- No difference in sedation ( $P = 0.99$ )
- For efficacious studies alone, neuropsychiatric effects were more significant ( $P < 0.001$ ), and PONV was significantly decreased ( $P < 0.001$ )
- No difference in the incidence of pruritis, urinary retention, or other reported side effects.

# The recipe

- Multiple options, most studies used an iv bolus and low dose iv infusion
- 0.25mg/kg bolus followed by 0.1mg/kg/hr for 24 hours post op
- Meta analysis showed no effect of dose or duration of ketamine
- May be given via most routes
  - Subcutaneous and im bioavailability is 90%
  - Oral, sl and in bioavailability is 20%, 30% and 45%





Magnesium

# Background

- Magnesium is the fourth most common cation in the body and the second most common intracellular ion
- First isolated in 1808 by the English chemist, Sir Humphrey Davy
- An essential constituent of over 300 enzyme systems, especially those involved in energy generation and modulates key physiological processes such as nucleic acid synthesis, receptor-binding and ion flux
- Given its diverse actions within the body magnesium salts have been used to treat a variety of clinical conditions
- The first randomised controlled trial exploring its analgesic properties was published relatively recently in 1996 (Trammer 1996).

# Uses of magnesium

**Table 3.** This table shows the potential therapeutic uses of magnesium.

System	Condition	Evidence base
Central nervous system	Acute pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perioperative IV magnesium reduced opiate consumption postoperatively and led to reduced pain scores [46]</li> </ul>
	Chronic pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IV and PO magnesium increased range of movement and reduced pain scores in chronic back pain with a neuropathic component [48]</li> </ul>
	Memory dysfunction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased brain magnesium enhanced learning and memory in rats [72] but no research in humans to date</li> </ul>
	Neuromuscular blockade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potentiates the effects of non-depolarising neuromuscular blocking agents [73]-[76]</li> <li>● Blunts the serum potassium rise induced by suxamethonium [77]</li> </ul>
	Postoperative shivering and thermoregulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduction in hypothermic shivering threshold from 36.6°C to 36.3°C (not clinically significant) [78], some reports of reduced postoperative shivering [79]-[81] but not borne out in a systematic review [82]</li> </ul>
	Insomnia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PO supplementation gave improved sleep quality, sleep time and ease of getting to sleep [49]</li> </ul>
Cardiovascular system	Arrhythmias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Treatment for torsades de pointes, digoxin toxicity, most atrial and ventricular arrhythmias where hypokalaemia is present [50]</li> <li>● Superior to amiodarone in cardioversion of atrial tachyarrhythmias in intensive care [51]</li> </ul>
	Myocardial infarction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduced infarct size in canine model [83]</li> <li>● LIMIT-2 study showed reduced 28-day mortality in magnesium treated group [84]</li> <li>● Larger and more recent ISIS-4 and MAGIC-2 trials showed no survival benefit [85] [86]</li> </ul>
	Cardiothoracic surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prophylactic magnesium reduced incidence of postoperative atrial fibrillation from 28% to 18% [53] and ventricular arrhythmias by 48% [54]</li> <li>● Magnesium in cardioplegic solution reduced postoperative ischaemia [55]</li> </ul>
	Phaeochromocytoma anaesthesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Case series reported 15 out of 17 cases with good haemodynamic stability at induction and tracheal intubation, with 4 cases requiring additional pharmacological support for blood pressure control during tumour handling [59]</li> </ul>
Respiratory system	Acute severe asthma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) and British Thoracic Society (BTS) 2012 recommend intravenous magnesium for patients with acute asthma, non-responsive to inhaled short-acting beta-2 agonists, inhaled anticholinergics, corticosteroids and oxygen [60]</li> <li>● Reduced admission rates in acute severe asthma but not in non-severe [61]</li> </ul>
	Respiratory muscle weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improved respiratory muscle power in hypomagnesaemic patients given supplementation [62]</li> </ul>
Gastrointestinal system	Mendelson's syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Magnesium trisilicate is superior to cimetidine in achieving a higher gastric pH [66] in prophylaxis against Mendelson's syndrome (pulmonary aspiration of gastric contents in obstetric anaesthesia)</li> </ul>
Obstetrics	Eclampsia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduced risk of maternal death and seizure recurrence compared to diazepam [67]</li> </ul>
	Pre-eclampsia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduced risk of developing eclampsia compared to placebo, phenytoin and nimodipine [68]</li> </ul>

# Mechanism of analgesic action

1. Action at NMDA receptor: non-competitive NMDA-receptor antagonist at the spinal cord (synergistic to ketamine and effective iv, PO and IT)
2. However, IV magnesium seems not to increase CSF magnesium (Mercieri 2012) – is it limiting central sensitization by a pre-synaptic mechanism?
3. Anti inflammatory effects: reduces IL-6 and TNF-alpha plasma levels in the postoperative setting (Aryana 2014)
4. Hypomagnesaemia can activate pro-inflammatory neuro-endocrine pathways (Lezhitsa 2011), therefore some anti inflammatory effects may be due to the treatment of subclinical hypomagnesaemia which is prevalent in patients following colorectal surgery
5. Calcium channel blockade: inhibition of calcium-mediated neuroendocrine secretion has been demonstrated (the release of catecholamines during intubation – James 1989)
6. Alpha adrenergic antagonistic effects in baboons & humans (James 2009)

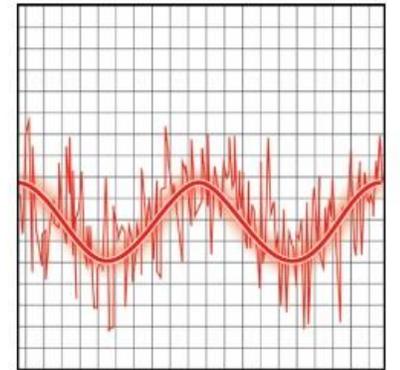
# Magnesium safety and side effects

- Mg<sup>++</sup> causes a dose dependent pre-synaptic inhibition of ACh release at the neuromuscular junction
- Clinically significant hypermagnesaemia can occur in renal failure or after prolonged and excessive intravenous infusion.

Magnesium Concentration	Features
0.75-0.95 mmol/L (1.7-2.2 mg/dL)	Normal range
2-3.5 mmol/L (5-8 mg/dL)	Flushing, ECG changes
4-5 mmol/L (9-12 mg/dL)	Drowsiness, slurred speech, absent deep tendon reflexes
More than 6 mmol/L (more than 15 mg/dL)	Muscle paralysis, respiratory depression
More than 8 mmol/L (more than 20 mg/dL)	Cardiac arrest

# Evidence for analgesic efficacy of Mg<sup>++</sup>

- **Two meta analyses in 2013**
- De Oliveira 20 RCTs, n=1257 – 1 point reduction in pain scores and opioid sparing ranging from 5-85% (mean 30%).
- Murphy 22 RCTs, n=1177 - improved pain scores at 4-6 hours (WMD = -0.67 p = 0.003). However, there was no difference in pain scores at 20-24 hours after surgery (WMD = -0.25 p = 0.17). Opioid sparing WMD 7.4mg (95% CI -9.4 to -5.4).
- No change in PONV in either meta-analysis (Murphy RR = 0.76; 95% CI: 0.52 to 1.09, p = 0.14)
- However, opioid sparing is a desirable endpoint in itself – neuroendocrine effects and ongoing inappropriate use
  
- **Other study findings:**
- Prolonged the duration of sensory block from spinal anaesthesia (level 2) IV and IT
- Prolonged time to first rescue analgesia (level 2)
- Prevented remifentanil-induced acute tolerance & hyperalgesia (level 2)
- Better quality of recovery (QoR) scores at 24 h & reduced opioid requirements after discharge (level 2)
- Attenuates tourniquet pain (level 2)



*“There is a signal in the noise! Magnesium does something. Is that something useful?”*

# Other Mg<sup>++</sup> study results

– evidence for synergy with ketamine and a dose response effect

- Ketamine + IV magnesium reduced 48 h morphine consumption by 30% compared to ketamine alone after scoliosis surgery (Jabbour 2014 Level II, n=50). Pain scores were not different, sleep quality and patient satisfaction were improved with the combination treatment.
- IV magnesium prevented remifentanyl-induced hyperalgesia after thyroidectomy (Song 2011 Level II, n=90).
- Magnesium may also have other beneficial effects on postoperative recovery:
  - Breast WLE in an outpatient setting, patients receiving IV magnesium had better quality of recovery (QoR) scores at 24 h compared with the saline group (MD 24/40; 99%CI 3 to 33; P<0.001) and reduced opioid requirements after discharge (De Oliveira 2013a Level II, n=50, JS 5).

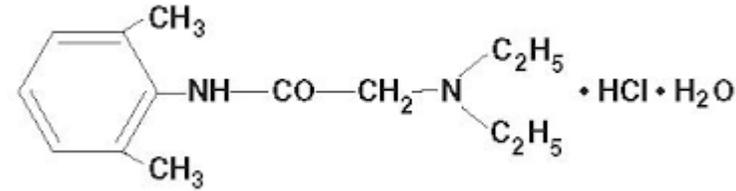
# Magnesium recipe

- Most of the trials included in the meta-analyses used a 30–50mg/ kg bolus during surgery and some continued with a maintenance infusion
- A potentially important finding is that those studies that continued magnesium infusion postoperatively showed a greater reduction of late pain at rest and greater opioid sparing
- Typical doses were by a 0.16 mmol/kg loading dose and an infusion of 0.04 mmol/kg per hour (1g = 4.06mmol) 2.7g then 0.7g/hr for 70kg
- One limitation of the meta-analyses is that it did not include the plasma magnesium concentrations measured in many of the studies

# Lidocaine



# Pharmacology



- Lidocaine (lignocaine - 2-(diethylamino)-N-(2,6-dimethyl phenyl)-acetamide) was developed in 1948 and was the first amide-type local anaesthetic
- In 1958, Clive-Lowe et al published the first paper on intravenous Lidocaine analgesic effect
- Pharmacokinetics:
- 60-80% protein binding
- 90% metabolised by liver (<10% unchanged in urine) to Monoethylglycinexylidide (MEGX)
- Elimination half-life of 1-2h (Baselt, 2008).
- Therapeutic plasma concentration 2-5mcg/ml
- Follows multi-compartment kinetics. Steady state concentrations are reached after 3–4 h of infusion in normal subjects (McCarthy et al 2010).

# Potential mechanisms of lidocaine analgesia

- Inactivation of peripheral and central voltage-gated Na channels i.e. A-delta and C-fibre nociceptors
  - However, plasma levels when given IV are too low to block sodium channels directly (de Oliveira, 2010)
  - Damaged nerve fibres may be more sensitive and local blockade at the site of injury may decrease neurogenic inflammation (important in ileus)
- Stimulation of inhibitory descending pain pathways
  - Increase in ACh in CSF via Muscarinic (M3) & Nicotinic receptors (Abelson & Hoglund 2002 – Rat studies)
- Anti-inflammatory effects
  - Inhibits NMDA receptors (Sugimoto 2003)
  - It inhibits the migration of granulocytes and release of lysosomal enzymes and consequently leads to decreased release of pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines (Ramaswamy 2012)
  - Inhibits NF-kB signaling and pro-inflammatory cytokine production
- Inhibition of nociceptive transmission
  - Mono-ethylglycinexylidide (MEGX) inhibits Glycine Transporter 1 → increased extracellular Glycine
  - Glycine is an inhibitory neurotransmitter at the dorsal horn
- These effects will limit peripheral and central sensitization, accounting for the anti-hyperalgesic effect

# Evidence for efficacy – recent meta-analysis 2015

BJA

British Journal of Anaesthesia, 116 (6): 770–83 (2016)

doi: 10.1093/bja/aew101  
Review Article



**Cochrane  
Library**

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

## Efficacy and safety of intravenous lidocaine for postoperative analgesia and recovery after surgery: a systematic review with trial sequential analysis<sup>†</sup>

S. Weibel<sup>1,\*</sup>, J. Jokinen<sup>1</sup>, N. L. Pace<sup>2</sup>, A. Schnabel<sup>1</sup>, M. W. Hollmann<sup>3</sup>, K. Hahnenkamp<sup>4</sup>, L. H. J. Eberhart<sup>5</sup>, D. M. Poepping<sup>6</sup>, A. Afshari<sup>7</sup> and P. Kranke<sup>1</sup>

### Continuous intravenous perioperative lidocaine infusion for postoperative pain and recovery (Review)

Kranke P, Jokinen J, Pace NL, Schnabel A, Hollmann MW, Hahnenkamp K, Eberhart LHJ, Poepping DM, Weibel S

# Kranke

Cochrane Library 2015

**Continuous intravenous perioperative lidocaine infusion for postoperative pain and recovery (Review)**

Kranke P, Jokinen J, Pace NL, Schnabel A, Hollmann MW, Hahnenkamp K, Eberhart LHJ, Poepping DM, Weibel S

- 45 RCTs (n=2802)
- Subgroup analysis effective in laparoscopic or open abdominal surgery only
- Also limited evidence of positive effects of lidocaine on postoperative gastrointestinal recovery, opioid requirements, postoperative nausea and vomiting, and length of hospital stay

# Lidocaine efficacy

- Lidocaine reduced early postoperative pain 0.8 points at 1-4 hours, 0.3 points up to 24 hours, no effect at 48 hours.
- Perspective – most RCTS show that epidurals have a 1-2 point benefit over opioid techniques
- Perhaps as good as TEA in lap surgery MD -1.14, 95% CI -1.51 to -0.78

# Adverse effects and clinical tips

- Lidocaine is the LA of choice for continuous intravenous administration
- Low plasma levels are required, in contrast to the therapy of chronic pain diseases
- Free lidocaine concentration will depend on the patient's plasma protein concentration and acid base status
- Drug accumulation may occur because of delayed elimination due to hepatic or renal insufficiency
- Lidocaine is metabolized to active metabolites by the liver, limited by liver perfusion
- No evidence that intravenous lidocaine was associated with an increased risk of adverse effects such as death, arrhythmias, or signs of lidocaine toxicity (Kranke et al 2015)
- Subcutaneous lidocaine can result in stable therapeutic plasma lidocaine concentrations and may be safer than IV (Weinberg 2016 – Online ahead of print)
- When Lidocaine is given as a prolonged infusion there is hepatic competition for the metabolism of lidocaine by MEGX (metabolite)
- Therefore reduce IVI by 20% if given for >24hr

# The recipe

- Bolus dose, infusion rate and duration not clear from latest meta-analysis
- 1.5mg/kg as a bolus and an infusion of 1.33mg/kg/hr seemed free of side effects, but didn't take account of hepatic or renal dysfunction

# Summary

- Ketamine, magnesium and lidocaine all have small but significant effects on opioid use and post operative pain scores
- Also moderate to weak evidence for positive effect on other aspects of recovery (lidocaine)
- Where a regional / neuraxial analgesic approach is not helpful (eg: laparoscopic colorectal surgery), there is probably a role for these modalities
- Some evidence for a synergistic effect of ketamine and magnesium
- Unknown additional effect of lidocaine
- Some effects on longer term pain outcomes, preventive analgesia, may reflect activity on central sensitisation (antihyperalgesic)

# Acknowledgements

- Thank you to Ross Vanstone for helping with the literature search for this presentation

Thank you for your attention...

Any questions?