

Thesis Title Comparison of Incidence of Passing Feces during
Operation between Orthopaedic patients Who
Receive and Do Not Receive Enema Under
Anesthesia.

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Abstract

Preoperative enema is a routine nursing practice. This procedure is believed to prevent the incidence of passing feces during operations. When the patients have operations under anesthesia, the internal and external sphincters are relaxed and may pass feces easily during operation. However, the procedure of preoperative enema can cause discomfort and pain to the patients. Furthermore, it is also considered to be harmful and costly

procedure. Previous observations have demonstrated that whether or not preoperative enema is performed, it has no effect on the incidence of complication from passing feces during surgery. Preoperative enema should not be routinely ordered, except for the patients having intestinal or colon tract operation.

Thus, the researcher was interested in comparing the incidence of passing feces during operations between orthopaedic patients who receive and do not receive enema under anesthesia. The sample was composed of 80 patients who received fractural extremity operations at Siriraj Hospital whose age ranged from 13-60 years. The eighty patients were equally divided into four groups as follows: The first group received general anesthesia and cleansing enema, the second group received general anesthesia and did not receive enema, the third group received epidural/or spinal anesthesia and cleansing enema, the fourth group received epidural/or spinal anesthesia and did not receive enema. The data were collected by using the incidence of passing feces during operation data record. Those groups that receive enema were given enema by nurses in the morning of operation date. Before the patients received anesthesia, the rectum was covered with a piece of gauze and it was removed after operation to observe the incidence of passing feces by the researcher. The data were analysed by using Z-test. The results of the study revealed that:

1. The incidence of passing feces during operation showed no statistically significant difference between the patients who received enema and those who did not receive enema in general anesthesia groups.

2. The incidence of passing feces during operation showed no statistically significant difference between the patients who received enema and those who did not receive enema in epidural/or spinal anesthesia groups.

The results of this study suggested that orthopaedic surgeons and orthopaedic nurses should not perform preoperative enemas on orthopaedic patients. Since preoperative enemas do not decrease incidence of passing feces during operations, but cause discomfort, and pain to the patients; and they are considered to be costly and harmful procedure. For further study; a comparison might be made between enema and non enema groups to study the incidence of passing feces in other types of patients who did not have intestinal or colon tract operation. This study can provide a direction for better nursing care in the future.