

Introduction

The treatment of postoperative pain in pediatrics may often be inadequate. Misconceptions about pain in children are common. They include the belief that children don't feel pain and that if it is felt it is not remembered. There is no scientific base for this attitude. Pain causes suffering and physiologic abnormalities in children similar to those occurring in adults. The same applies for neonates and for infants undergoing surgery. The primary goal to prevent postoperative pain in pediatrics is humanitarian and secondary to prevent or minimize body response as the body responds to pain and injury by producing metabolic, hormonal and haemodynamic changes. These may have profound negative effects resulting in protein breakdown and insuline resistance (Anand et al., 1987a). Neonates of various gestational age clearly respond to painful stimuli by measurable physiological, metabolic and clinical changes. Analgesia attenuates these changes.