Dexmedetomidine vs. Midazolam or Propofol for Sedation During Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation: Two Randomized Controlled Trials

Professors Stephan M. Jakob and Jukka Takala of the Inselspital’s Department of Intensive Care Medicine were the first and senior authors, respectively, of an original research article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA, impact factor 30.011) on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. The article, “Dexmedetomidine vs. Midazolam or Propofol for Sedation During Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation: Two Randomized Controlled Trials” reports the results of two phase 3, multicenter, randomized, double-blind trials including 1000 patients and carried out in 10 European countries. The researchers found that dexmedetomidine was as good as midazolam or propofol in maintaining light to moderate sedation. Duration of mechanical ventilation was shorter for patients receiving dexmedetomidine compared to midazolam. Both trials showed shortened time to extubation and improved communication between the nursing staff and patients receiving dexmedetomidine.


Links:

The article and eSupplement can be accessed at http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/307/11/1151

A related editorial by Hannah Wunsch is available at http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/307/11/1195.full

A news@JAMA interview with Professor Takala appears at http://newsatjama.jama.com/?s=takala

JAMA Editor Derek Angus discusses the paper in a podcast which can be downloaded from http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/307/11/suppl/DC1

Orion, the study sponsor, has produced a press release which can be accessed at http://www.orion.fi/en/News-and-media/Press-releases2/Archive/16/1/