



의학 석사학위 논문

Analgesic effect of a lidocaine patch for shoulder pain in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy: a randomized controlled study

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의학과

장민영

Analgesic effect of a lidocaine patch for shoulder pain in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy: a randomized controlled study

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이 논문을 의학 석사학위 논문으로 제출함.

2019년 8월

아주대학교 대학원

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장민영의 의학 석사학위 논문을 인준함.

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2019년 7월 5일

Abstract

Background Laparoscopic cholecystectomy has many advantages compared with open surgery. However, the incidence of laparoscopy-related shoulder pain reaches 90% in women. The topical lidocaine patch 5% has been used for treatment of acute pain. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effect of lidocaine patch 5% on the shoulder pain after laparoscopic cholecystectomy in female patients.

Methods In this randomized, double-blinded controlled study, total 63 female patients were randomly allocated to patch group (n = 31) and control group (n = 32). Patch group received lidocaine patch 5% and dressing retention tape on both shoulder, and control group received only dressing retention tape. Abdominal pain and shoulder pain were evaluated with rating on numeric rating scale (0 = n0 pain and 10 = the worst pain) at baseline and at 30 min, 6 h, 24 h, and 48 h after surgery.

Results There were no significant differences in patient characteristics and operation details between the two groups. The overall incidence of shoulder pain was significantly lower in patch group than in control group (42% vs. 78%, P = 0.005). The severity of shoulder pain also was significantly reduced in patch group at 24 h and 48 h after surgery (P = 0.01 and P = 0.015 at 24 h and 48 h, respectively). The number of patients showing more

severe shoulder pain than abdominal pain was higher in the control group (P = 0.041), and the number of patients showing less shoulder pain compared to baseline was higher in the patch group (P = 0.024). No other complications related to lidocaine patch 5% were found except nausea.

Conclusions Lidocaine patch 5% reduced the incidence and severity of postoperative shoulder pain in patients undergoing laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Application of lidocaine patch 5% on the shoulder can be a simple, non-invasive, and effective analgesic method without adverse effects.

Keywords Cholecystectomy, Laparoscopy, Lidocaine patch, Shoulder pain



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I. Introduction

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy (LC) has become a standard treatment for gall bladder disease because of advantages such as smaller incision, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery compared with open cholecystectomy ^[11]. Although LC is considered as a less painful procedure, patients may experience shoulder pain after undergoing LC. Shoulder pain after surgery occurs rarely in open surgery, but its incidence rises to 30% - 60% in general laparoscopic surgery, reaching 90% in women ^[2-4]. Some patients unexpectedly may experience severe pain in laparoscopic surgery than in aggressive, major surgeries ^[4, 5]. However, laparoscopy-related shoulder pain is poorly responsive to analgesics ^[4]. Therefore, the efforts to prevent the laparoscopy-related shoulder pain are essential.

Although the mechanism has not been fully clarified, laparoscopy-related shoulder pain is generally considered to develop due to diaphragmatic irritations from direct injury, stretching, or CO₂gas^[2, 3, 6]. Clinically, diaphragmatic irritation manifests as referred pain in the shoulder arising from the phrenic nerve ^[4, 7]. Interventions to reduce shoulder pain after LC aim to minimize diaphragmatic irritation through low-pressure pneumoperitoneum ^[8, 9], intraperitoneal instillation of analgesics ^[10], drain suction ^[11], active gas aspiration ^[12] or phrenic nerve block ^[13]. However, local anesthesia applied to the area of referred pain, and not initial area, has

also been shown to be effective in reducing referred pain in the tibialis muscle ^[14]; further, trigger point injection or a eutectic mixture of local anesthetics (EMLA) cream applied to the shoulders, and not the diaphragm, significantly reduced shoulder pain after laparoscopic hysterectomy ^[15].

Lidocaine patch 5% is a topical analgesic that interrupts pain signals in peripheral nociceptors with minimal systemic absorption and few adverse effects ^[16]. In a randomized controlled study of myofascial pain syndrome, lidocaine patch 5% decreased the symptoms of pain and the sensation of the skin as effectively as trigger point injection ^[17]. We hypothesized that application of lidocaine patch 5% to the shoulder could also reduce the severity of shoulder pain after LC.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the analgesic effect of lidocaine patch 5% on shoulder pain after LC in female patients.

II. Materials and Methods

This randomized, double-blinded, prospective, parallel-group controlled study was conducted with patients undergoing elective LC at the Ajou University Health System between February 2017 and September 2017. The present study was approved by the Ajou Hospital Institutional Review Board (AJIRB-MED-CT4-16-076) ClinicalTrial.gov and registered at (NCT02827136). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants. Female patients with American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status I or II, aged 19-85 years, were included. Patients were excluded if they met at least one of the following criteria: histories of trauma, infection or surgery involving the shoulders, hypersensitivity to local anesthetics, chronic pain, chronic abuse of opioids, impaired liver or renal function, or refusal to participate in this study.

III. Interventions

Participants (n = 64) were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio into one of two groups by computer-generated randomization (http://www.random.org): the patch group (n = 32) and the control group (n = 32). Group assignment was concealed in a sealed, opaque envelope. Immediately before anesthesia induction, the envelope was opened by an independent investigator who performed all interventions but was not involved in outcome assessment. The anesthesia provider, patients, and preoperative and postoperative outcome assessors were blinded to the type of intervention (group assignment) throughout the study period.

None of the patients received premedication. On arrival to the operating room, basic monitoring including pulse oximetry, electrocardiography, and non-invasive blood pressure measurement was performed. Before anesthesia induction, lidocaine patches (10 ´ 14 cm; Lidotop, Teikoku Seiyaku Co., Kagawa, Japan) were applied to both shoulders of patients in the patch group; then, the lidocaine patches were covered with dressing retention tape (12 ´ 15 cm; Hypafix[®],BSN Medical GmbH, Hamburg, Germany). In the control group, only dressing retention tape(12´ 15 cm; Hypafix[®])was applied, also to both shoulders. Anesthesia was induced with intravenous(IV) propofol 2 mg/kg and remifentanil 0.3 mg/kg, followed by rocuronium 0.8 mg/kg. After endotracheal intubation, mechanical ventilation was initiated

with a tidal volume of 8 mL/kg and an inspired oxygen fraction of 0.5. The inspiratory rate was adjusted to maintain an end-tidal $CO_2of35 - 40$ mm Hg. Anesthesia was maintained with continuous infusion of remifentanil at a rate of 0.05 - 0.10 mcg/kg/min and sevoflurane 2% - 2.5% within a range of bispectral index score 40 - 60.

In case of mean arterial pressure (MAP) <60 mmHg or heart rate (HR) <40 beats/min, IV ephedrine 4 mg or atropine 0.5 mg was administered, respectively. Approximately 10 min prior to the end of surgery, IV propacetamol 1g was administered for postoperative analgesia. At the end of surgery, sevoflurane was stopped, and the fresh gas flow was changed to 5 L/min. After confirming the train-of-four count >2 using a nerve stimulator, IV neostigmine 50 mg/kg and glycopyrrolate 10 mg/kg were administered to reverse neuromuscular blockade. After confirming adequate tidal volume, patients were extubated with maintaining the remifentanil infusion of 0.05 mcg/kg/min to prevent the emergence cough. Then, the patients were transferred to a post-anesthesia care unit (PACU).

IV. Data collection

The primary end point of this study was the severity of shoulder pain after surgery. Preoperative variables included age, height, weight, ASA physical status, and diagnosis. Intraoperative variables included anesthesia time, operation time, and amounts of crystalloid and bleeding. Hemodynamic data such as HR and MAP were collected at five time points: at baseline, at pneumoperitoneum, at 20 min and 30 min after pneumoperitoneum, and at the end of surgery. Pain included the abdominal pain, and overall, right, and left shoulder pains. The incidence of shoulder pain was evaluated based on the overall value of shoulder pain and defined as the number of patients who had a pain score that was higher than the value at baseline. ">abdominal pain" was defined as the number of patients who had worse shoulder pain compared with abdominal pain during the 48 h following surgery. "Alleviated pain" was defined as the number of patients who had less shoulder pain compared to value at baseline. The severity of pain was evaluated on a numeric rating scale (NRS) ranging from 0 to 10 (0 = no)pain and 10 = the worst pain) at five time points: at baseline, and at 30 min, 6 h, 24 h, and 48 h after surgery. Nausea was classified into four grades (1 = none, 2 = mild, 3 = moderate, and 4 = severe). On arrival to the PACU, IV fentanyl 1 mg/kg was injected as a rescue analgesic in patients reporting an NRS score ≥ 5 . IV ramosetron 0.3 mg was

administered to with vomiting or nausea grade ≥ 3 or 4. At the ward, IV nefopam 20 mg was administered to patients reporting an NRS score ≥ 5 . The lidocaine patches and/or dressing retention tape were removed by the ward's attending nurse within 12 h following surgery. Complications related to lidocaine patch 5% (skin erythema, pruritus, blisters, contact hypersensitivity, nausea, headache, and arrythmia) were evaluated by the ward's attending nurse at ward until discharge from the hospital.

V. Statistical analysis

Sample size was calculated based on the severity of shoulder pain after surgery. In a previous study, the pain score of shoulder pain after LC was 4.43 ± 1.4 ^[8]. Considering that a mean difference of 1.2 in pain score was significant ^[18], 29 participants were required in each group for a significance level of 5% and a power of 90%. Considering a 10% dropout rate, a total of 64 patients (32 per group) were included.

Data are presented as mean \pm standard deviation (or standard error), median (interquartile range), or number of patients (proportion). Normality of distribution was assessed with the Kolmogorov - Smirnov test. Parametric and nonparametric data were analyzed using Student's t-test and the Mann - Whitney test, respectively. Categorical data were compared using the chi-square test or Fisher's exact test. Repeated measured data were analyzed by the linear mixed model. When the interaction was statistically significant, the *P* value was adjusted with Bonferroni correction. A *P* < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analysis was conducted with SPSS for Windows (version 25.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

VI. Results

Of the 64 patients included in this study, one patient in the patch group dropped out due to persisting intolerable abdominal pain; finally, the data of 63 patients were analyzed (Fig. 1). There were no significant differences in the patient characteristics and operation details between the two groups (Table 1). Intraoperative HR and MAP were comparable throughout the study period (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1 Flow diagram

	Control group	Patch group	P_{-y_2}	
	(n = 32)	(n = 31)	<i>r</i> -value	
Age (years)	52 (42-63)	47 (40-61)	0.527	
Height (cm)	158 (153-163)	159 (155-161)	0.581	
Weight (kg)	61.3 ± 10.8	58.1 ± 9.8	0.229	
BMI (kg/m^2)	24 (22-27)	23 (21-25)	0.284	
ASA physical status (1/2/3)	18/13/1	19/12/0	>0.999	
Diagnosis			0.743	
Adenomyomatosis or polyps	9 (28%)	12 (39%)		
Acute/ chronic cholecystitis				
mild	12 (38%)	10 (32%)		
moderate	2 (6%)	3 (10%)		
severe	9 (28%)	6 (19%)		
Crystalloid (mL)	300 (275-400)	300 (275-400)	0.916	
Bleeding (mL)	10 (10-20)	15 (5-20)	0.938	
Total dose of remifentanil (ug)	400 (320-600)	350 (280-400)	0.055	
Operation time (min)	50 (40-65)	50 (35-57.5)	0.229	
Anesthesia time (min)	85 (70-97.5)	80 (65-90)	0.348	

Table	1.	Patients	characteristics	and	operation	details.
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Values are presented as mean ± SD, median (interquartile range) or number (proportion).

BMI body mass index, ASA American Society of Anesthesiologists.

The overall incidence of shoulder pain was significantly lower in the patch group than in the control group (42% vs. 78%, P = 0.005, Table 2). The incidence of shoulder pain at each time point except the baseline was also lower in the patch group. The number of patients showing more severe

shoulder pain than abdominal pain was higher in the control group (P = 0.041), and the number of patients showing less shoulder pain compared to baseline was higher in the patch group (P = 0.024).



Fig. 2 Changes of (A) heart rate and (B) mean blood pressure during surgery.

Values were expressed as mean ± standard error. *baseline* before anesthesia induction, *pneumo* at pneumoperitoneum, *20 min* 20 min after pneumoperitoneum, *30 min* 30 min after pneumoperitoneum, *end of surgery* 10 min before the end of surgery.

	Control group	Patch group	
	(n = 32)	(n = 31)	<i>P</i> -value
Incidence ^a			
Overall	25 (78%)	13 (42%)	0.005
baseline	4 (13%)	7 (23%)	0.337
30 min after surgery	6 (19%)	0	0.024
6 h after surgery	15 (47%)	6 (19%)	0.032
24 h after surgery	22 (69%)	11 (35%)	0.012
48 h after surgery	20 (63%)	8 (26%)	0.005
>abdominal pain ^b	12 (37%)	4 (13%)	0.041
Alleviated pain ^c	0	5 (16%)	0.024

Table 2. Incidence of shoulder pain

Values are presented as median (interquartile range) or number (proportion).

^a Incidence was defined as the number of patients having higher shoulder pain compared with baseline.

^b The number of patients having worse shoulder pain compared with abdominal pain

^c The number of patients having less shoulder pain compared with baseline

Abdominal pain showed a peak of severity at 30 min after surgery and gradually decreased thereafter in both groups ($P_{group*time} = 0.868$; Fig. 3A). Overall shoulder pain showed a peak of severity at 24 h after surgery in both groups (Fig. 3B). In addition, overall shoulder pain tended to be significantly different between the two groups over time ($P_{time} < 0.001$) and was significantly lower in the patch group than in the control group at 24 h and 48 h after surgery [mean value (SE); 1.3 (0.4) vs 3.3 (0.4), $P_{adjusted} = 0.01$ and 0.9 (0.4) vs 2.5 (0.4), $P_{adjusted} = 0.015$ at 24 h and 48 h, respectively]. Right shoulder pain was lower in the patch group at 24 h

after surgery ($P_{adjusted}$ = 0.01; Fig. 3C), and left shoulder pain was lower in the patch group at 24 h and 48 h after surgery ($P_{adjusted}$ = 0.005 for both; Fig. 3D) compared with control group.





Values were expressed as mean \pm standard error. *baseline* before anesthesia induction, 30 min 30 min after surgery, 6 hr 6 hr after surgery, 24 hr 24 hr after surgery, 48 hr 48 hr after surgery.

*p < 0.05 compared with the control group.

Right shoulder pain did not differ from left shoulder pain in either group $(P_{group*time} = 0.613 \text{ and } P_{group*time} = 0.449 \text{ in the control group and patch group, respectively; Fig. 4}).$





Values were expressed as mean ± standard error. *baseline* before anesthesia induction, *30 min* 30 min after surgery, *6 hr* 6 hr after surgery, *24 hr* 24 hr after surgery, *48 hr* 48 hr after surgery.

The recovery data were comparable between the two groups (Table 3). Nausea developed in 24 patients (12 patients in each group) during PACU or ward stay; no other complications related to the use of lidocaine patch 5% or dressing retention tape were found.

	Control group	Patch group	D volvo	
	(n = 32)	(n = 31)	<i>P</i> -value	
In PACU				
Nausea	26/0/1/5	21/3/2/5	0.323	
Vomiting	2 (6%)	2 (7%)	>0.999	
Patient requesting antiemetics	7 (22%)	8 (26%)	0.714	
Patient requesting analgesic	25 (78%)	25 (81%)	0.805	
Duration of PACU stay (min)	40 (30-50)	40 (40-50)	0.190	
At Ward				
Complications				
Fever	5 (16%)	3 (10%)	0.708	
Urinary retention	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	>0.999	
Nausea	8 (25%)	4 (13%)	0.222	
Vomiting	3 (9%)	2 (7%)	>0.999	
Hypotension	0	1 (3%)	0.492	
Patient requesting antiemetics	2 (6%)	3 (10%)	0.672	
Patient requesting analgesic	17 (53%)	19 (61%)	0.513	
Hospital stay after surgery (day)	1 (1-2)	1 (1-1)	0.468	

Table 3. Recovery profiles.

Values are presented as median (interquartile range) or number (%). PACU post-anesthesia care unit.

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VII. Discussion

This study demonstrated the beneficial analgesic effect of lidocaine patch 5% on decreasing shoulder pain after LC in female patients. The incidence of shoulder pain in the patch group was significantly reduced up to approximately 50% of that in the control group. The severity of shoulder pain also was significantly reduced in the patch group at 24 h and 48 h after surgery. The number of patients showing more severe shoulder pain than abdominal pain was higher in the control group, and the number of patients having less shoulder pain compared to baseline was higher in the patch group.

most Although still unclear, the probable mechanism for laparoscopy-related shoulder pain is neuropraxia of the phrenic nerve due to diaphragmatic or peritoneal irritation ^[2, 3, 6, 19]. The phrenic nerve originates from the anterior branch of cervical spinal nerve roots C3 - C5 and provides sensory innervation to the mediastinal pleura, pericardium, and peritoneal surfaces of the diaphragm^[7, 13]. The main nerve C4 also provides cutaneous innervation to the shoulder. Regarding the misinterpretation of the origin of input from the referred pain area ^[20, 21], diaphragmatic irritation during provoke referred shoulder pain. Based laparoscopy can on this "misinterpretation theory," numerous strategies have been developed to reduce laparoscopy-related shoulder pain by minimizing diaphragmatic

irritation. These interventions are sometimes effective, but the results are conflicting and there is no consensus on preventive measures.

There raised a "barrier-dam theory", in which referred pain develops in consequence of the hyperexcitation of the connective nerves between the referred area and the initial area, thus being primarily peripheral in origin ^[22]. In several studies, referred pain was reported to be partly dependent on spontaneous input from the cutaneous receptors via peripheral control, although being conflicting results ^[20, 21]. When a EMLA cream was applied over the referred skin area, referred pain intensity decreased by 22.7% [23]. Complete block of all afferent nerves from the referred area reduced the intensity of referred pain by 40%; however, referred pain persisted [14]. When trigger point injection or an EMLA cream were administered before surgery, these effectively reduced the incidence and severity of shoulder pain after laparoscopic hysterectomy ^[15]. In contrast, local anesthesia of the referred area did not affect referred pain in some studies, e.g. [24], which could be explained by differences in the quality and intensity of the stimulus or the sensitivity of the referred pain area ^[14]. In the present study, lidocaine patch 5% was applied on the referred pain area (the shoulder) and the incidence and severity of shoulder pain after LC was reduced significantly.

Lidocaine patch 5% is a skin patch approved for the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia. It is also used for localized and painful conditions such as vascular access, pain caused by trauma fracture, wound pain after

surgery, and arthritis ^[18, 25]. Each patch contains 700 mg of lidocaine in aqueous base, but only 2% - 3% of the dose is absorbed; the peak plasma level is 0.13 mg/mL (toxic level, 5 mg/mL), thus showing minimal adverse effects ^[26]. In a previous study, application of an EMLA cream on the shoulders reduced laparoscopy-related shoulder pain to an NRS score of <1 ^[15], which was more effective than the lidocaine patch 5% used in present study (mean NRS scores of 1.3 and 0.9 at 24 h and 48 h after surgery, respectively). One of differences between the EMLA cream and the lidocaine patch is that EMLA produces local anesthesia by blocking large sensory fibers ^[16] and the lidocaine patch exerts an analgesic effect by blocking the small sensory fibers without causing local anesthesia, although a mechanism is less understood. Thus, the skin under the lidocaine patch has a normal sensation ^[16]. Despite the low analgesia potency, the lidocaine patch might be better for surgical patients than the EMLA cream due to the lack of numbness and occlusive dressing.

In the present study, the peak shoulder pain score was 1.3 at 24 h after surgery in the patch group. This was lower than the scores ranging from 1.9 - 4.2 in studies focusing on lessening diaphragmatic irritation during LC ^[8, 9, 13]. This is a surprising finding since the present study only included female patients, and women have a lower pain threshold than men ^[27]. It is interesting that shoulder intervention showed more effective analgesia than diaphragmatic intervention during LC, as referred pain is mainly associated with central components (initial area) and not with peripheral components

(referred area).

In the present study, shoulder pain after LC was reduced until 48 h after surgery despite the application of the lidocaine patch during the first 12 h. Lidocaine patch 5% has a half-life of 6-8 h [16]. In patients with myofascial pain syndrome, the effect of lidocaine patch 5% applied to three focal sites throughout the body for 4 days was superior to that of a placebo patch until day 9 after the beginning of treatment ^[17]. Similarly, in an area limited to the upper trapezius, a lidocaine patch applied for 7 days also relieved pain more effectively than a placebo patch for a period of 2 weeks ^[28]. There are two possible explanations for the long analgesic period of the lidocaine patch. First, after long-term application, lidocaine patch 5% decreases epidermal nerve fiber density without affecting pressure pain and threshold for heat- and cold-induced pain in the skin of healthy volunteers ^[29]. Second, central sensitization might play a role in persistent complaints in patients with shoulder pain ^[30]; however, this has been hitherto poorly investigated. In the present study, the antinociceptive effect of lidocaine patch 5% that was initiated before the pneumoperitoneum might inhibit the central sensitization of the shoulder to some degree.

Right and left shoulder pain did not differ in the patch and control groups. Shoulder pain after LC is more frequent in the right side ^[2]. During laparoscopic hysterectomy, right shoulder pain is more severe than left shoulder pain ^[31]. In contrast, Schoeffler et al. reported that more severe shoulder tip pain is noted in the left side in reference with protection of the right side of the diaphragm through the liver ^[32]. Further research is required to evaluate which side is more affected.

This study has several limitations. First, shoulder pain scores were not evaluated by dividing separately during rest and movement. Second, when patients requested rescue analgesics, the main site of complaint was not evaluated. Third, longer follow-up time of patients would be needed, because post-laparoscopic pneumoperitoneum was detected on upright chest radiographs in patients undergoing LC within the first week after surgery ^[33].

In conclusion, lidocaine patches 5% reduced the incidence and severity of postoperative shoulder pain in patients undergoing LC. Application of lidocaine patch 5% on the shoulder can be a simple, non-invasive, and effective analgesic method without adverse effects.

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국문요약

복강경하 담낭절제술은 담석증 치료로 널리 시행되고 있으며 빠른 회복 및 짧 은 입원 기간 등의 장점이 있다. 복강경하 담낭절제술 후 통증으로는 내장통증, 체벽통증, 그리고 어깨통증이 있다. 개복수술에 비하여 술 후 통증이 적고 그 기간이 짧은 반면, 개복수술 시에는 없는 어깨통증이 발생하여 상당한 불편감 을 야기하며, 특히 여성 환자에서는 어깨통증의 빈도가 90%에 이른다. 이 연구 의 목적은 여성 환자에서 복강경하 담낭절제술 후 어깨통증에 대한 5% 리도카 인 패치의 진통효과에 대하여 알아보는 것이었다.

본 연구는 전향적 무작위 이중맹검 위약 비교연구로서, 총 63명의 여성 환자가 연구에 등록되었고 실험군(31명) 또는 대조군(32명)에 무작위로 배정되었다. 실 험군은 수술 전 리도카인 패치와 고정테이프(하이퍼픽스)를 양쪽 어깨에 부착 되었고, 대조군은 고정테이프(하이퍼픽스)만 부착되었다. 통증 점수는 수술 전, 수술 후 30 분, 6 시간, 24 시간 그리고 48 시간에 측정되었다.

환자 특성 및 수술 데이타는 두 군 간 유의한 차이를 보이지 않았다. 어깨통증 의 발생빈도는 대조군에 비하여 실험군에서 의미있게 낮았고 (42% vs. 78%, *P* = 0.005), 어깨통증의 심한 정도 또한 수술 후 24 시간과 48 시간에 실험군에서 의미있게 낮았다 (*P* = 0.01 and *P* = 0.015 at 24 h and 48 h). 복통보다 어깨 통증이 더 심한 환자의 수는 대조군에서 더 많았고 (*P* = 0.041), 수술 전에 비 해 어깨통증이 감소한 환자의 수는 실험군에서 더 많았다 (*P* = 0.041).

결론적으로 5% 리도카인 패치는 여성 환자에서 복강경하 담낭절제술 후 어깨 통증의 발생빈도 및 심한 정도를 감소시켰다. 어깨에 부착된 5% 리도카인 패

