

CHAPTER 5

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Intramuscular morphine is our conventional technique used for pain relief in postpartum tubal ligation. No study has evaluated its efficacy in this operation and it is unethical to use any medication without adequate information. In this study, the control group was compared with intramuscular morphine group in the factorial design. To compensate for this deficiency of intramuscular morphine premedication in the control group, as soon as the patient had moderate to severe pain, rescue drugs were given right away. The patients were explained about the withdrawal of this conventional intramuscular morphine and its compensation with the more potent narcotic (fentanyl) by the intravenous route right away.

The patients were clearly explained that if they agree to participate in this study, they need to be awake to rate the scores during the operation. If they are not happy to do so, they have the right to have either the conventional method (intramuscular morphine) or to have general anesthesia.

The patients read and signed the informed consents after understanding the whole process of the study.