

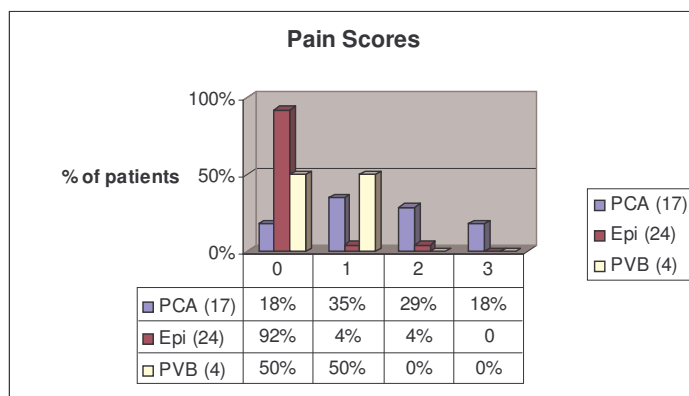
# Comparison of Different Analgesic Techniques for Latissimus Dorsi Flap Surgery for Breast Reconstruction

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This is a retrospective study of 45 patients from 2002 till 2006. Data collected were anaesthetic technique, intra-operative pain relief, duration of surgery, postoperative analgesia and the incidence of post-operative nausea and vomiting (PONV).

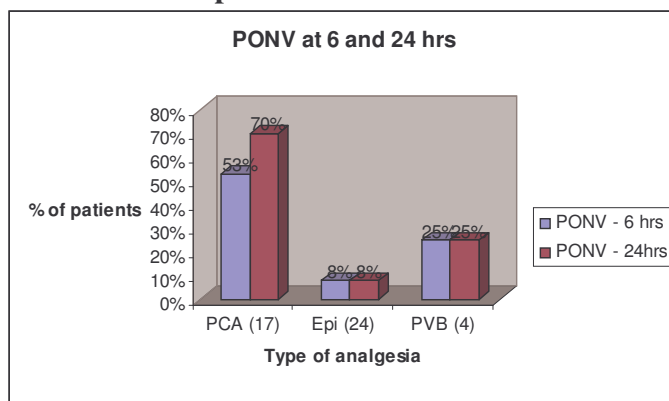
**Results** - There were a total of 45 patients, 24 patients had epidural of which 3 had to be resited intra-operatively. Paravertebral block was offered to 5 patients but abandoned in one due to technical difficulty and an epidural was sited in its place. 17 women received PCA with morphine.

**Chart 1 – Pain severity in the 3 groups at 24 hours**



96% of the epidural group had nil to mild (0-1) pain the next day. A large proportion of PCA group complained of moderate to severe (2-3) pain.

**Chart 2 – % of patients with PONV**



PCAs were associated with maximum nausea and vomiting.

**Discussion and Conclusion** – The incidence of PONV after breast surgery is reported between 48% and 68%. LD flaps are associated with a lot of pain requiring large doses of opioids. This further increases the incidence of PONV causing a significant negative impact on patient satisfaction, clinical and financial outcomes. Our case review has shown that epidurals provide excellent analgesia with minimal PONV.