

Remifentanil in the Management of Laparoscopic Resection of Pheochromocytoma – Case Reports[†]

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Abstract

Introduction: The laparoscopic adrenalectomy approach to pheochromocytoma surgery offers the opportunity to use new short-acting drugs to facilitate rapid recovery. **Clinical Picture:** We report on 2 cases who underwent laparoscopic resection of pheochromocytoma. The first was a 40-year-old lady who had been started on phenoxybenzamine 20 mg bd, but developed a recurrence of bronchial asthma after starting atenolol which was subsequently stopped. The second was a 51-year-old lady with neurofibromatosis who was taking phenoxybenzamine 20 mg bd and propranolol 20 mg tds. **Treatment:** The intraoperative management was facilitated by the stress suppressive effects of remifentanil infusion combined with nitroprusside as a vasodilator, and desflurane as an anaesthetic. **Outcome:** Both patients were extubated at the end of surgery and made uneventful recovery. **Conclusion:** Remifentanil possesses several useful properties, which deserve serious consideration in pheochromocytoma surgery, particularly in the instance where b-blockade is contraindicated. In combination with other titratable short-acting agents, it potentially facilitates rapid recovery especially following the laparoscopic approach to adrenalectomy.

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