



Introduction of anaesthesia in Croatia

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A pain relief is a worthwhile humanitarian goal. The modern era of anaesthesia began in the late eighteenth century when social attitude toward pain changed and efforts to relieve it were undertaken. William T. G. Morton, a Boston dentist with considerable interest in anaesthesia learned that ether dropped on the skin provided analgesia and began experiments with inhaled ether. On October 16, 1846 he arranged the first public demonstration of ether-anaesthetized surgery in the Massachusetts General Hospital, an event that had far-reaching consequences and would later be recognized as America's greatest contribution to 19th century medicine. The medical profession, once the details of Morton's anaesthetic technique became public knowledge, was quick to adopt the use of ether anaesthesia. Five months after the first public demonstration of ether anaesthesia in Boston, ether anaesthesia was performed in Zadar, Croatia on March 13, 1847. It was the first ether anaesthetic in Croatia and the second one in Europe. After the turbulent period of reporting about first experiences with ether anaesthesia there were few other information until the end of 19th century when Dr. Miroslav Čačković in 1896 first started reporting on the use of Schleich anaesthesia by infiltration of cocaine solution.

More than 160 years have passed from the time when anaesthesia simply made it possible to perform operations previously considered impossible under conditions acceptable for the patient.

Today, anaesthesiology comprises not only pain relief for operative procedures but also responsibilities in emergency and intensive care medicine, as well as the treatment of patients with chronic pain.

Recent database of published studies claiming to show benefits in favour of regional techniques compared to other anaesthetic and analgesic techniques. Collaboration of Croatian Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Analgesia Croatian Medical Association founded in 2003, together with European Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Therapy, designed as a bridge between research, new ideas and new technologies and their implementations in everyday practice.

Current research in how regional techniques affect perioperative outcome, as well as the rapid development of continuous perineural catheters, extended duration local anaesthetic and opioid preparations, and ultrasound-assisted nerve localization all point to future anaesthesiologists becoming more involved in regional anaesthesia, not less.

A papers of this journal should to prove that regional anaesthesia except pain relief, offers reduction in surgical morbidity and mortality, shorter length of hospital stay, lower costs of treatment and therefore better functional outcome. Regional anaesthesia and pain therapy in Croatia through health care management, analyzed in original scientific paper, education of new procedure and clinical experience.