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The analgesic efficacy of ketamine-magnesium combination is influenced by the order of medication administration

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Introduction Magnesium is an endogenous voltage-dependent NMDA receptor channel blocker and ketamine is a non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist. Magnesium may potentiate the effect of ketamine in analgesia and anaesthesia, but may also interact in an opposing manner. This study aimed at evaluating type of the interaction between magnesium sulphate and ketamine administered systemically in rats with an acute nociceptive pain (tail-immersion test).

Materials and methods Analgesic activity was assessed by tail-immersion test in male Wistar rats (200–250 g). The distal 5 cm of the tail was immersed in a warm water bath ($55 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$) and the time for tail-withdrawal was measured as response latency.

Results Magnesium sulphate (2.5–30 mg/kg, s.c.) and ketamine (2.5–30 mg/kg, i.p.) administered alone did not produce any effect. However, significant antinociception (synergistic interaction) was revealed at the following doses of ketamine: magnesium sulphate of 5:5 mg/kg, 2.5:5 mg/kg and 10:5 mg/kg. The effect was not dose-dependent, and a greater response was obtained when ketamine was administered before magnesium sulphate.

Conclusions This study revealed that (1) magnesium sulphate and ketamine given alone were not effective against acute nociceptive pain in rats, but (2) a combination of both drugs resulted in synergistically inhibited nociception, (3) which occurred only at selected low doses and proportions of the medications in a combination and (4) suggested the importance of the order of drug administration.

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Labor pain management: Effect of pelvic tilt by birth ball, sacrum-perineal heat therapy, and combined use of them, a randomized controlled trial

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There are various safe non-pharmacologic methods for labor pain management, which mostly decrease suffering of mother and some of them significantly decrease pain too.

Aim To assess effect of pelvic tilt by birth ball, sacrum-perineal heat therapy and combination use of them on active phase of physiologic labor.

Method In this randomized control trial, 120 primiparous volunteer with age 18–35 years, gestational age of 38–40 weeks, in

one of hospitals of Iran university of medical sciences were randomly selected and divided in four groups: Pelvic tilt by using birth ball, sacrum perineal heat therapy, combined use of two mentioned methods and control group. Tools had 3 main parts of personal characteristic, client examination form and pain visual analogue scale (VAS). All ethical points were considered.

Results Equality of four groups had been checked before intervention. Lowest pain score first belong to pelvic tilt by birth ball then combined group and finally in heat therapy, which all were significantly less than control group. Significant decrease of pain had been seen in birth ball group and combined group during after 30 minutes intervention, but in the heat therapy group, it was seen after 60 minutes intervention (P -value < 0.05).

Conclusion All three interventions of this study had significant effect and decreased labor pain during active phase, but highest decrease was in pelvic tilt by birth ball group and its effect started after 30 minutes intervention. It is suggested that that Obstetrics and Midwives consider these safe methods for labor pain management.

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Personality and personality disorders

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Gender differences in Hofstede's cultural dimensions among a Kuwaiti sample

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Introduction Hofstede's model of cultural dimensions has become the most widely accepted and most frequently cited model for cross-cultural research. His cultural dimensions included power distance index (PDI), individualism vs. collectivism (IDV), masculinity vs. femininity (MAS), uncertainty avoidance index (UAI), and long-term vs. short-term orientation (LTO).

Objective The objective of this study is to explore gender related differences in the Hofstede's five dimensions of national culture for work-related values among a sample from Kuwait.

Methods The participants were 540 first year secondary school Kuwaiti teachers (270 males: mean age = 28.95 ± 2.47 ; 270 females: mean age = 28.20 ± 2.04). The Arabic version of the Values Survey Module, VSM 08 was administered to participants. Data analysis include independent sample t -test was used to examine gender differences in Hofstede's five dimensions of national culture.

Results Internal consistency was satisfactory for the Power Distance, Individualism vs. Collectivism, Masculinity vs. Femininity, Uncertainty Avoidance, and Long-term vs. Short-term Orientation subscales respectively (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.82, 0.84, 0.90, 0.74, 0.87$) for males and (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.77, 0.90, 0.83, 0.80, 0.88$) for females. The results revealed significant gender differences where the males obtained a higher score than females on individualism ($t = 2.95, P < 0.002$), and masculinity ($t = 2.77, P < 0.005$), while females obtained a higher score than males on power distance ($t = 4.48, P < 0.000$), and long-term orientation ($t = 4.13, P < 0.000$).

Conclusion These findings suggest that the gender differences exist for cultural dimensions, and provide insight on leadership characteristics.