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**POSTER REVIEW 1**

**A-29.**

**REGIONAL ANESTHESIA IN CROATIAN OBSTETRICS AFTER KYBELE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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**Introduction:** In Croatia, regional anesthesia (RA) for Caesarian section (C/S) was seldom used outside of the university setting (<7% prior to 2005)<sup>1</sup>. Epidural analgesia for standard vaginal delivery (SVD) occurred in less than 1% of births outside of a university hospital. In September 2005 Kybele experts (12 anesthesiologists, an internist and a midwife) carried out an educational program (EP) for local practitioners on regional anesthesia techniques in 9 hospitals. This report examines the effect of that EP on the use of RA in Croatian obstetrics.

**Methods:** Hospitals participating in the EP were analyzed retrospectively, pre- and post- the Kybele EP. The pre-Kybele period comprised the year prior to the EP (October 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005); the post-Kybele period comprised the year after the EP (October 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2006). Total number of deliveries, types of analgesia for SVD, the frequency of C/Ss, and types of anesthesia for C/Ss were analyzed. Statistical analysis was performed with  $\chi^2$  test. (p<0.05).

**Results:** 8 out of 9 hospitals delivered the requested data (88%). The total number of deliveries in the pre-Kybele period was 14,481, and the total number of C/Ss was 1,904 (13.1%). RA for C/S was used in 20.6% of cases, ranging from 5.8% to 44% at different institutions. Epidural analgesia for SVD was used in 1% of cases, ranging from 0% to 3.9%. In the post-Kybele period deliveries numbered 14,354, with 2,473 C/Ss (17.2%). RA for C/Ss was used in 34.3% of cases, ranging from 15.5% to 51.4%. Epidural analgesia was used in 2.1% of SVDs, ranging from 0.4% to 5.1%. In the post-Kybele period, 7 out of 8 hospitals significantly increased the rate of RA for C/S compared to pre Kybele period (Table).

	Regional anesthesia for C/S (N)							
	Zagreb	Split	Zadar	Sibenik	Dubrovnik	Cakovec	Osijek	Sisak
Pre-Kybele	73	83	10	6	59	51	61	71
Post-Kybele	146	134	43	19	88	88	78	107
p*	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.031	0.0096	0.009	0.512 (NS)	0.0021

\* Chi squared test

The Kybele EP was associated with increased rates of epidural analgesia for SVD in 4 hospitals.

**Conclusion:** An EP conducted by Kybele experts resulted in a significant increase in the use of RA for C/Ss in 87.5% of hospitals. Epidural analgesia for SVD was significantly increased only in 50% of hospitals. For a further increase in the use of RA in obstetrics, additional education of medical staff and patients is necessary.

**Reference:** (1) Anesthesiology 2004;100, Supp1:A 67.