

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ANTAGONISM OF ENDOGENOUS OPIOIDS – USE IN INTERPRETATION OF INJECTIONS [AEQUI2] PILOT STUDY

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Introduction:

- The placebo response most likely to affect lumbar medial branch blocks (LMBBs) is mediated by endogenous opioids (EOs)
- This study used high-dose naloxone to block endogenous opioids and evaluate the placebo effect during LMBBs

Methods:

- Candidates for LMBBs were given an infusion of saline and an infusion of naloxone after the procedure
- NRS scores were obtained at baseline, post-LMBB, post-saline infusion, and post-naloxone infusion.

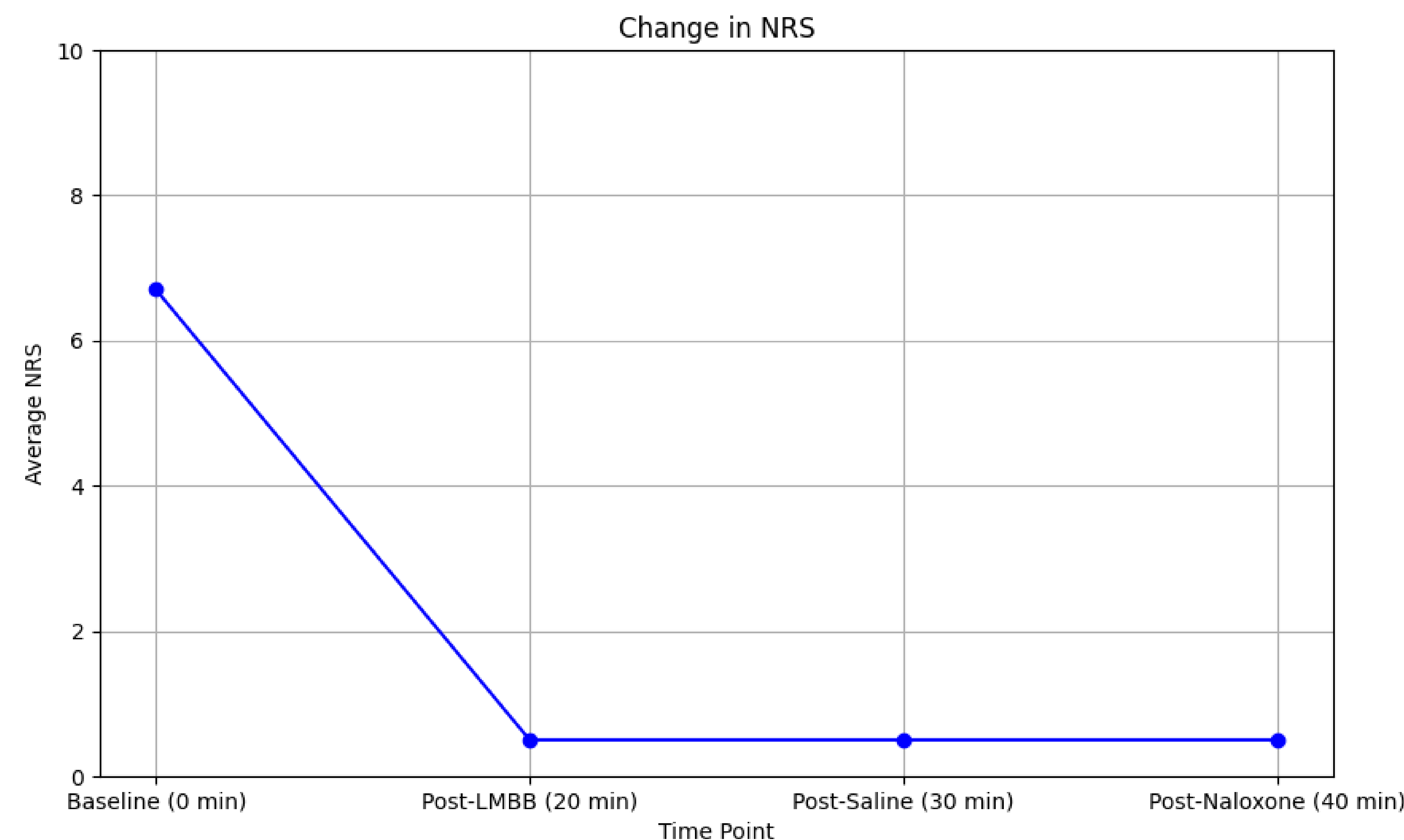
Results

- Mean pain score at baseline was 6.7 (n=10; range 5,8).
- Initial post-LMBB NRS was 0/10 for 8 subjects and 2/10 for 2 subjects.
- NRS scores remained the same for all subjects after infusion of saline and naloxone

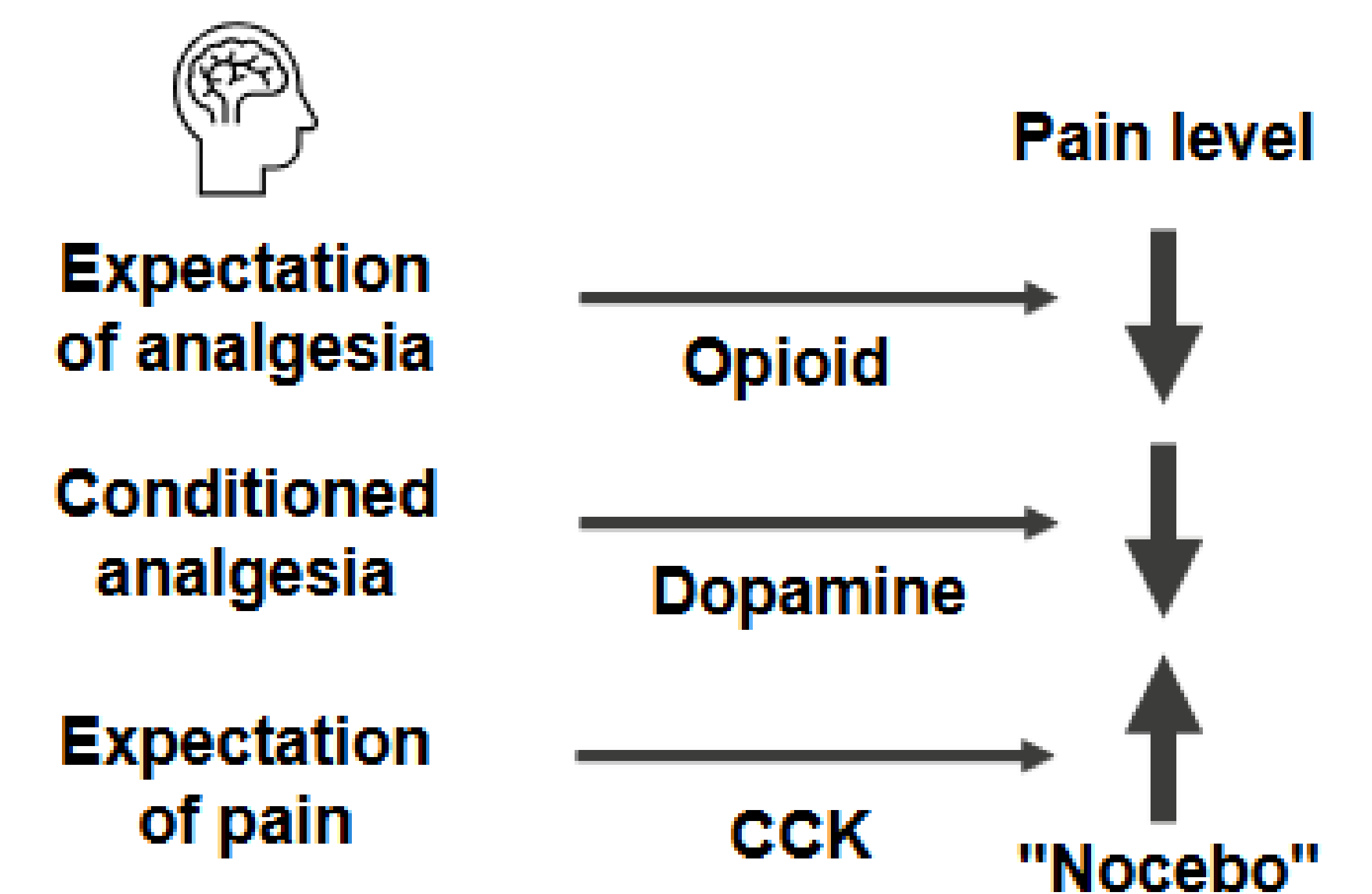
Discussion

- EO blockade did not affect LMBB analgesia
- This suggests absence of EO-mediated placebo response during these LMBB.
- There may be other relevant placebo mechanisms, and this study used only anatomically accurate LMBB.
- There may be populations or procedural factors that lead to EO-induced placebo responses.

Blocking the placebo effect *didn't affect LMBB response*



How do placebo/nocebo responses work?



Why do we care?

