

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Pre-Operative Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) Protocol Compliance Towards Major Surgery Patients at Dr. Soetomo General Hospital, Surabaya

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The implementation of ERAS protocol can optimize patients after surgery, which in turn can reduce burdens both for patient and hospital. The purpose of this study is to describe the compliance and consistency of ERAS in the pre-operative period of surgery patients in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital Surabaya.

Methods: We conducted consecutive observation of major surgical patients for 4 weeks. The type of surgery observed was digestive, thoracic and cardiovascular, and gynecological surgery. The pre-operative period will be calculated for compliance based on the ERAS international protocol. All data of compliance presented descriptively.

Results: A total of 36 major surgery patients of which 7 (19,4%) were digestive surgeries, 14 (38,9%) were thoracic and cardiovascular surgeries, and 15 (41,7%) were gynecological surgeries. Overall compliance of the ERAS protocol in the pre-operative period of major surgery patients was 91%. The compliance of ERAS protocol in the pre-operative period of digestive surgery patients was 80%, in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery patients was 93,4% and gynecologic surgery patients was 84,3%. Major surgery patients with $\geq 90\%$ compliance was 25%. Digestive surgery patients with $\geq 90\%$ compliance was 0%. Thoracic and cardiovascular surgery patients with $\geq 90\%$ compliance was 64,3%. Gynecologic surgery patients with $\geq 90\%$ compliance was 0%.

Conclusion: : Pre-operative elements of ERAS protocol in major surgery including digestive, thoracic and cardiovascular, and gynecologic surgery in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital, Surabaya needs to be improved.

Introduction

Surgery is one of the most widely performed medical procedures in the world.¹ Major surgery can cause post-operative complications which can worsen the patient's condition and increase the patient's mortality rate.² This event can add cost and energy burdens to clinicians and patients.³ This has a major impact especially in the era of universal healthcare, where costs, labor and time must be minimized as much as possible to reduce risks and deficits.⁴ An effective way to prevent this complication is by applying ERAS protocol (Enhanced Recovery After Surgery)

The ERAS protocol is a multi-modal peri-operative treatment pathway that aims to restore the physiological state of the body post-surgery as optimal as possible

before surgery and reduce the impact of surgical stress by giving operative patient right amount of care before, at, and after surgery.⁵ Research in China suggest that higher adherence to ERAS protocol has benefits to major surgery patients.⁶

However, ERAS protocol still faces various obstacles. This is because the ERAS protocol changes the existing operating care doctrine.^{7,8} The ERAS protocol component of the pre-operative period is the earliest treatment action and can determine the effect of subsequent peri-operative care. Dr. Soetomo General Hospital has many clinical practices carried out, including surgery. This study aims to determine the description of the adherence and consistency of pre-operative management based on ERAS protocol. We



used pre-operative part of the surgery for evaluation was because pre-operative ERAS protocols can be carried out in any hospital without sophisticated equipment and invasive procedures unlike the intra-operative period which including minimally invasive surgery.⁹ Thus, we can compare Dr. Soetomo General Hospital with another hospital with higher technological capabilities. The surgical procedures included in the research are digestive surgery, thoracic cardiovascular surgery, and gynecology/oncology surgery because the only available pathway in those 4 types of surgery.^{10,11,12,13}

Methods

This was a descriptive-observational research by taking data from surgical patients consecutively for 4 weeks from 18 May 2019 to 1 June 2019 and 9 June 2019 to 22 June 2019 conducted at Dr. Soetomo General Hospital. The inclusion criteria were elective, major surgery patients with age above 18 years old and with types of surgery that has ERAS guidelines (digestive, thoracic and cardiovascular, and gynecologic). The exclusion criteria were patient underwent emergency surgery and minor surgery. Total number of surgery patients observed was 36 patients. The ethical clearance had approval from the research ethical committee of Dr. Soetomo General Hospital (110/KEPK/IV/2019).

Data from surgery patients was obtained by reading through the sheets related to the application of ERAS in the patient's medical record while the patient had still monitored inward. Data including SOAP (Subjective, Objective, Assesment, Plan) sheets, intensive care/high-care sheets, CIE (Consultation, Information, and Education) sheets, early adult nursing assessment sheets, medical assessment sheets, anesthesia and sedation sheets, medication sheets, laboratory examination sheets, and surgery sheets. Each patient then categorized into thirteen elements as seen from table 2 based on percentage of pre-operative care adherence to the patient (> 90%, 80-89%, 70-79%, 60-69%, and <60% respectively).¹⁴ All data analyzed by categorizing the data based on characteristics and compliances for different type of surgery, then comparing each types of surgery compliance of pre-operative ERAS protocol in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital. WPS Office 11 and SPSS 25 software was used for data collection, recording and calculation. Each type of surgeries compliance then compared with other hospital researches within the same type of surgery.

Results

Characteristics of Major Surgery Patient

Based on the data obtained from observations in table 1, the most number of patients in types of surgery category were gynecological/ surgery patients, (n=15, 41.7%) and the least number of patients were patients with digestive surgery (n=7, 19.4%). Majority of patients was female (n=24, 66.7%) with average age was 50 ± 13,5 years.

Compliance with Pre-operative ERAS Protocol Elements in Major Surgery

In table 3, none of the patients had total adherence of less than 70% from thirteen elements listed in table 2. Almost all pre-operative ERAS elements had a percentage of > 90% except screening and treatment of anemia and pre-operative medical pre-rehabilitation.

Table 1. Types of surgery in surgery patients and characteristics

Categories	Digestive Surgery	Thorax-Cardiovascular Surgery	Gynecology/Oncology Surgery	Total
Number of Patient	7	14	15	36
Sex				
Male	3	8	0	12
Female	4	6	15	24
Age				
<40	1	5	1	6
41-50	3	2	6	11
51-60	2	3	5	11
>60	1	4	3	8
PS-ASA				
1	0	0	1	1
2	7	3	12	22
3	0	10	2	12
4	0	1	0	1

Table 2. Compliance with elements of the ERAS protocol pre-operative period in major surgery patients

Pre-operative Elements of the ERAS Protocol	Elements Compliance Percentage (%)
Pre-acceptance CIE provision	100
Risk assessment	100
Cessation of cigarettes	91.7
Cessation of alcohol	100
Pre-operative nutrition screening	100
Anemia screening and treatment	75
Physical pre-rehabilitation of the patient	25
Instructions for administration of liquid carbohydrates and 2 hour pre-operative water fasting	100
Instructions for administration of solid carbohydrates and 6 hours pre-operative fasting	100
Instructions for pre-operative fluid and electrolyte therapy	97.2
Do not give anxiolytic drugs on pre-medication	97,2
Prophylactic antibiotics	100
Reducing risk by replacing inhalation agents and N2O with propofol and reducing opioids	97.2
Total Compliance Percentage	91

Table 3. Compliance rate with elements of the ERAS protocol pre-operative period in major surgery patients

Pre-operative period ERAS protocol compliance rate	Number (n)	Percentage (%)
≥90%	9	25
80-89%	20	55.6
70-79%	7	19.4
60-69%	0	0
<60%	0	0
Total	36	100

Compliance with Pre-operative ERAS Protocol Elements in Thoracic and cardiovascular Surgery

Thoracic-cardiovascular surgery patient compliance at Dr. Soetomo General Hospital was higher than the two types of operations as seen in table 4 and 5. In particular, pre-habilitation elements in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery was more adhered than digestive surgery and gynecological surgery. Even so, this still needs improvement as pre-habilitation was only done in half of the patients.

Compliance with Pre-operative ERAS Protocol Elements in Gynecologic Surgery

Total percentage of compliance in Dr Soetomo General Hospital ERAS preoperative protocol in gynecologic

surgery on table 5 was 84.3%. When compared with ERAS adherence to digestive surgery in table 4 and thoracic and cardiovascular surgery in table 5, gynecological surgery patient compliance at Dr. Soetomo General Hospital was between the two types of operations. In comparison to other research, compliance in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital still lacking.^{18,19} Unlike digestive surgery where bowel preparation was still done inconsistently, gynecological surgery particularly much newer to ERAS protocol implementation compared to digestive surgery. Thus, the change in bowel preparation is later than digestive surgery.¹⁷

Table 5. Compliance rate with elements of the ERAS protocol pre-operative period digestive, thoracic and cardiovascular, and gynecologic surgery patients

Pre-operative period ERAS protocol compliance rate	Percentage in digestive surgery (%)	Percentage in thoracic and cardiovascular Surgery (%)	Percentage in Gynecologic Surgery (%)
≥90%	0	64,3	0
80-89%	71,4	28,6	74,3
70-79%	28,6	7,1	26,7
60-69%	0	0	0
<60%	0	0	0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table 4 Compliance with elements of the ERAS protocol pre-operative period in digestive, thoracic and cardiovascular, and gynecologic surgery patients

Pre-operative Elements of the ERAS Protocol	Elements Compliance Percentage in Digestive Surgery (%)	Elements Compliance Percentage in Thoracic and cardiovascular Surgery (%)	Elements Compliance Percentage in Gynecologic Surgery (%)
Pre-acceptance CIE provision	100	100	100
Risk assessment	100	100	100
Cessation of cigarettes	100	85,7	100
Cessation of alcohol	100	100	100
Pre-operative nutrition screening	100	100	100
Anemia screening and treatment	71,4	78,6	73,3
Physical pre-habilitation of the patient	14,3	57,1	0
Instructions for administration of liquid carbohydrates and 2 hour pre-operative water fasting	100	100	100
Instructions for administration of solid carbohydrates and 6 hours pre-operative fasting	100	100	100
Instructions for pre-operative fluid and electrolyte therapy	100	92,9	100
Do not give mechanical bowel preparation (for Digestive and Gynecologic Surgery)	42,9	-	6,7
Do not give anxiolytic drugs on pre-medication	85,7	100	100
Opioid-sparing medication (for Digestive Surgery)	0	-	-
Prophylactic antibiotics	100	100	100
Reducing risk by replacing inhalation agents and N2O with propofol and reducing opioids	85,7	100	100
Total Compliance Percentage	80	93,4	84,3

Discussion

ERAS protocol is done to reduce post-operative stress and complications. There are three parts of ERAS protocol which consists of pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative elements. First, elements of pre-operative ERAS protocol include education, risk assessment and reduction, fasting and nutrition enhancement, and pre-operative medication including PONV (Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting). Elements of intra-operative ERAS protocol consists of standard anesthetic protocol, intraoperative fluid therapy, surgical techniques, and hypothermia reduction. Finally, postoperative therapy including thromboprophylaxis, postoperative nutrition and fluid therapy, drain management, and early mobilization. Other criteria for peri-operative managements are not comprehensive like ERAS, for example there is only one criterion focusing on pre-operative fasting for long hours. ERAS criteria are based on comprehensive peri-operative treatment. Compared to old criteria for fasting, in ERAS, patient must be given nutrition before fasting and long hours of fasting are reduced.^{10,11,12,13,20}

When compared among digestive surgery, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, and gynecological surgery in table 2 and 4, the total percentage of overall major surgery patients compliance was higher than digestive and gynecological operations combination and slightly lower than thoracic and cardiovascular operations. The least complied type of surgery in ERAS protocol was digestive surgery. This is because in digestive surgery, opioid sparing medication had not been used at all because the doctors were still inconsistent in adherence towards ERAS protocol.¹²

The pre-operative ERAS protocol that had been done the least were screening and treatment of anemia and pre-operative medical pre-rehabilitation which contribute to decrease in compliance percentage. Screening of anemia had been done in all patients, but treatment in patients with anemia generally uses blood transfusions which can increase the risk of complications.²¹ Medical pre-rehabilitation in all patients was not performed because the management system of Dr. Soetomo General Hospital is still inadequate to accommodate all major surgery patients. Medical pre-rehabilitation compliance was better in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery because more medical evidence supports pre-rehabilitation in this type of surgery compared to other operations.²² The lack part in compliance could be improved with better medical management and education to ERAS adherence.

This study has limitation in only focused on pre-operative elements, while ERAS is multimodal and interlinked between pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative to bring optimal result to patients.¹² The difficulties in Dr. Soetomo General Hospital to implement ERAS are lack of medical personnel knowledge and medical management system.

Conflict of Interest

The author stated there is no conflict of interest

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