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**EPIDURAL ANALGESIA INFLUENCE ON BACK PAIN AFTER THE DELIVERY**

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**Introduction.** There is an opinion that the women who gave birth with epidural analgesia complain of post-partum back pain more frequently.

**Aim.** To assess the influence of epidural analgesia for post-partum backache with and without epidural analgesia among post-partum women.

**Materials and methods.** A prospective continuous survey was conducted at Vilnius University Hospital Santariskiu Klinikos centre of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2016. The original questionnaire was present to women during the first days after the delivery. In six months after the delivery they were questioned again by e-mail or by the phone call. During the period there were distributed 300 questionnaires. The response rate was 70.66% and these 212 cases were included in the statistical analysis. The study did not include women who were suffering from back pain before their pregnancy. The data were processed by using Microsoft Excel, data statistical analysis was conducted by using SPSS® 24.0 software. Value of  $p < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results.** Out of 212 women, 79 (37.26%) women received epidural analgesia, 87 (41.04%) – intravenous drugs and 46 (21.7%) women gave birth without anesthesia. Age of the average survey participants – 29.76 ( $\pm 5.56$ ). The prevalence of post-partum back pain in epidural analgesia group was 24 (30,38%) women, in intravenous anesthesia group - 24 (27,58%) and in women group without anesthesia - 14 (30,43%). The correlation between post-partum backache and type of anesthesia was not statistically significant ( $p = 0.907$ ). It was found out that the pain relief method during delivery does not affect the intensity of post-partum back pain ( $p = 0.503$ ). Back pain has affected the quality of sleep ( $p = 0.011$ ) and daily activities ( $p = 0.004$ ) in women group without labour pain relief and only the daily activities of women group with intravenous anesthesia ( $p = 0.01$ ). Statistically significant connection between the quality of sleep ( $p = 0.275$ ), daily activities ( $p = 0.4$ ) and epidural analgesia has not been stated. The prevalence of back pain six months after the delivery in epidural analgesia group was 31.65% women, in intravenous anesthesia group – 28.74% and in women group without anesthesia – 23.91%. The correlation between backache six months after the delivery and type of anesthesia was not statistically significant ( $p = 0.654$ ).

**Conclusion.** Labour pain relief method does not increase the risk of back pain in the early post-partum period and six months after the delivery.