



Use Of Nerve Block In The Treatment Of Orofacial Pain: An Integrative Review Of The Literature

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Introduction

Nerve block has been a widely explored therapeutic option for alleviating orofacial pain. This painful condition affects the tissues of the face and oral cavity, causing chronic discomfort and distress. Understanding its effectiveness as a treatment modality is of utmost importance for improving the quality of life of these patients and guiding clinical practice.

Objective

This study aims to conduct an integrative literature review with the objective of evaluating the scientific knowledge available in the literature regarding the effectiveness of nerve block as a treatment modality for orofacial pain.

Methods

An integrative literature review with a qualitative and descriptive approach was conducted. It sought to answer the guiding question: "What scientific knowledge has been produced in the literature regarding nerve block as a treatment modality in orofacial pain?". Data were collected in August 2023 from four electronic databases: BVS, LILACS, Scielo, and PubMed, using the following descriptors for the first three databases: ["Terapêutica" and "Bloqueio Nervoso" and "Dor Orofacial"] and ["Nerve Block" and "Facial Pain" and "Therapeutics"] for the latter, resulting in 218 articles; 216 in PubMed, 1 in BVS, 1 in Scielo, and 0 in LILACS, respectively. Results: From this quantity, eligibility criteria were applied, which included fully available articles in the listed databases, published between 2019 and 2023 (last 5 years). There were no language restrictions. Publications that did not meet the theme's delimitation, the study's objective, as well as those resulting from editorials, ministerial documents, book chapters, theses, and dissertations were excluded. In this sense, 8 articles remained, with duplicates excluded, leaving 7. Subsequently, titles and abstracts were read, resulting in the removal of 3 studies. After full-text reading, 4 studies were retained, and data extraction was performed by the 4 researchers using a protocol previously developed by the authors, with the variables: title, author, country, objective, methodology, results and conclusions. Therefore, the study found that nerve block yields satisfactory results, as it provides analgesic effects in patients suffering from orofacial pain, but it should only be used in specific cases and when drug treatment is ineffective.

Conclusion

The results emphasize the importance of nerve block as an alternative for the therapeutic treatment of orofacial pain in patients who exhibit some form of resistance to drug intervention.

Keywords: Therapeutics; Nerve Block; Facial Pain.