Supplementary Table: Baseline demographics of included studies.

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| Authors | Year | Country | Number of subjects(n) | Patient agerange (years) | Type of Surgery | Caudal local anesthetic dose | Caudal dex*a* dose | IV dex*a* dose | Control agent | Rescue Analgesia | PF*b* dex*a* used? | Pain scale | Criteria for administration of rescue analgesia |
| Abd-Elshafy9 | 2016 | Egypt | 90 | 2-12 | Lower limb orthopedic surgery | 0.5mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.25% | 0.1mg/kg | 0.5mg/kg up to 10mg | Normal saline | Paracetamol | NR*c* | Pediatric objective pain score | Pain score > 4 |
| Abu-Elyazed10 | 2017 | Egypt | 105 | 1-6 | Inguinal hernia repair | 0.75mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.25% up to 20mL or 2mg/kg bupivacaine | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Normal saline | Paracetamol | Yes | Modified objective pain score | Pain score > 4 |
| Almajali24 | 2014 | Jordan | 162 | 11-14 | Urethroplasty | 0.5mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.25% up to 2mg/kg | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Normal saline | Paracetamol | NR*c* | 4 point numerical rating scale | Pain score >= 4 for two consecutive measurements |
| Bangash25 | 2014 | Pakistan | 100 | 1-5 | Orchidopexy | 0.5mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.25% | N/A | 1.5mg/kg | Normal saline | Acetaminophen | NR*c* | FLACC*f* scale | Pain score = 5 |
| Choudhary26 | 2016 | India | 128 | 1-5 | Inguinal hernia repair | 1mL/kg of ropivacaine 0.2% | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Normal saline | Paracetamol | No | FLACC*f* scale | Pain score >= 4 |
| El-Feky27 | 2015 | Egypt | 120 | 3-10 | Orchidopexy, inguinal hernia repair, or hypospadias repair | 0.5mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.125% with lidocaine 0.5% | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Plain local | Paracetamol | NR*c* | Modified objective pain score | Pain score >= 4 |
| Girgis28 | 2014 | Egypt | 80 | 1-6 | Inguinal hernia repair | 1mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.25% | 0.2mg/kg | N/A*e* | Plain local | Paracetamol | NR*c* | Modified objective pain score | Pain score > 4 |
| Hong29 | 2010 | South Korea | 77 | 1-5 | Orchidopexy | 1.5mL/kg of ropivacaine 0.15% up to 20mL | N/A*f* | 0.5mg/kg up to 10mg | Normal saline | Fentanyl in PACU*d* then acetaminophen | No | FLACC*f* and CHEOPS*g* scale | Pain score >= 5 for two consecutive measurements |
| Khalil13 | 2013 | USA | 29 | 0.5-6 | Urologic surgery | 1mL/kg of ropivacaine 0.2% | 0.2mg/kg | N/A*e* | Placebo | Morphine in PACU*d* | Yes | Children, Babies, and Infant pain scale  | Pain score > 3 |
| Kim30 | 2014 | South Korea | 80 | 0.5-5 | Orchidopexy | 1.5mL/kg of ropivacaine 0.15% up to 20mL | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Plain local | IV Fentanyl in PACU*d* then ibuprofen | No | FLACC*f* and CHEOPS*g* scale | Pain score > 4 |
| Mohamed31 | 2016 | Egypt | 70 | 2-5 | Hypospadias repair | 1mL/kg of bupivacaine 0.25% | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Plain local | PR Paracetamol or IV fentanyl | NR*c* | Children's and Infants' PostoperativePain Score | Pain score >= 4 |
| Murni-Sari14 | 2015 | Malaysia | 64 | 3-10 | Inguinal hernia repair | 0.75mL/kg of levobupivacaine 0.25% up to 20mL | N/A*f* | 0.5mg/kg up to 10mg | Normal saline | IV Fentanyl in PACU*d* then paracetamol | NR*c* | Wong-Baker faces scale | Pain score > 4 |
| Srinivasan32 | 2016 | India | 105 | 4-10 | Inguinal hernia repair | 1.5mL/kg of ropivacaine 0.15% | 0.1mg/kg | 0.5mg/kg up to 10mg | Normal saline | Paracetamol | NR*c* | Visual analogue scale | NRc |
| Yousef33 | 2014 | Egypt | 105 | 1-6 | Inguinal hernia repair | 1.5mL/kg of ropivacaine 0.15% | 0.1mg/kg | N/A*e* | Normal saline | IM Pethidine in PACU*d* then paracetamol | NR*c* | FLACC*f* and CHEOPS*g* scale | Pain score >= 4 for two consecutive measurements |

*a*dexamethasone

*b* preservative-free

*c* not reported

*d* post-anesthetic care unit

*e*not applicable

*f* Face, Legs, Activity, Cry, Consolability scale

*g* Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario Pain Scale