

Audit on efficacy of analgesia for metatarsal osteotomy

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» Introduction

The major focus on analgesia over the past few years has been on major joint surgery. Foot surgery is known to be painful but there is not much data in the literature on ideal analgesia for increasingly complex procedures. We decided to audit the efficacy of analgesia in patients undergoing metatarsal osteotomy.

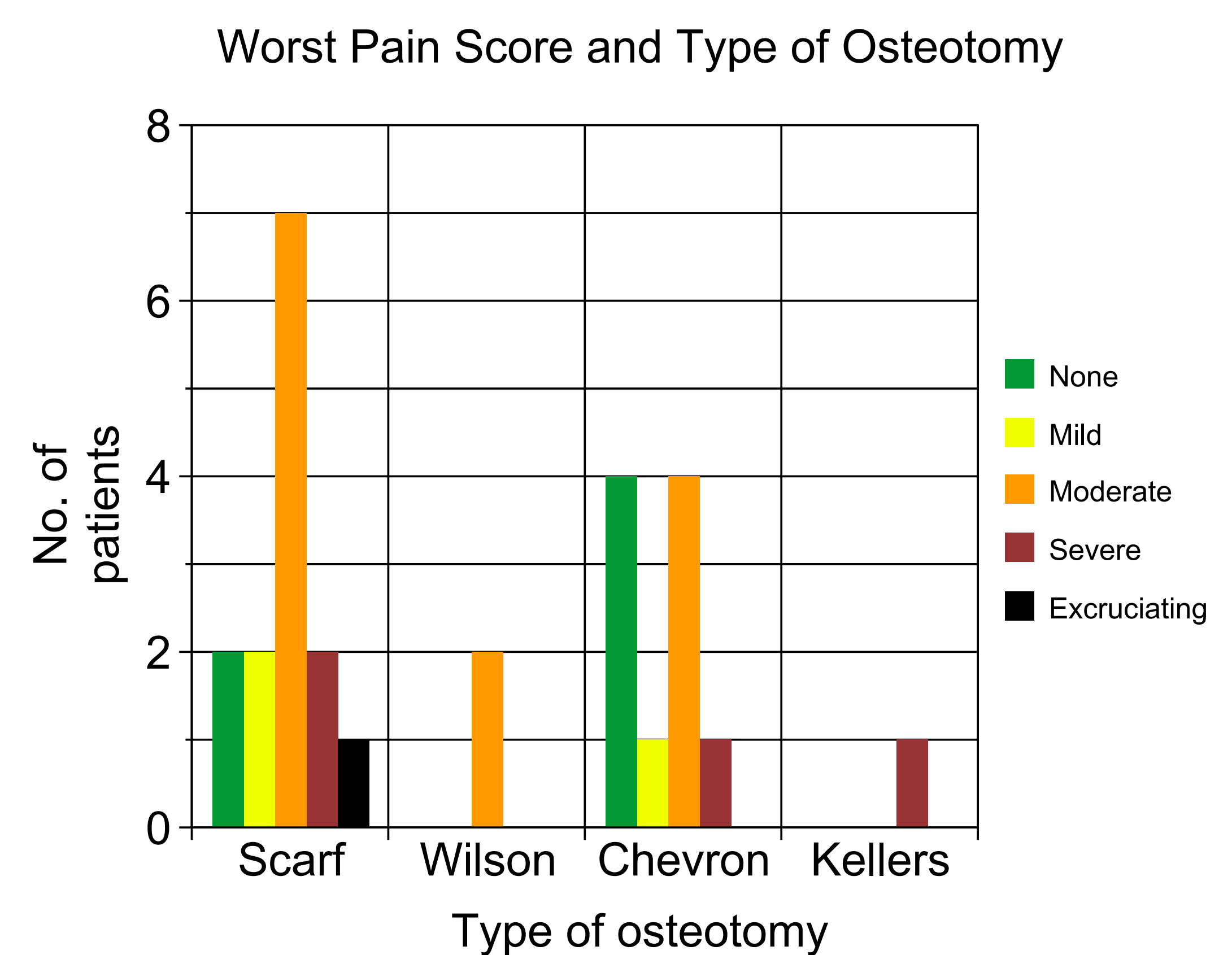
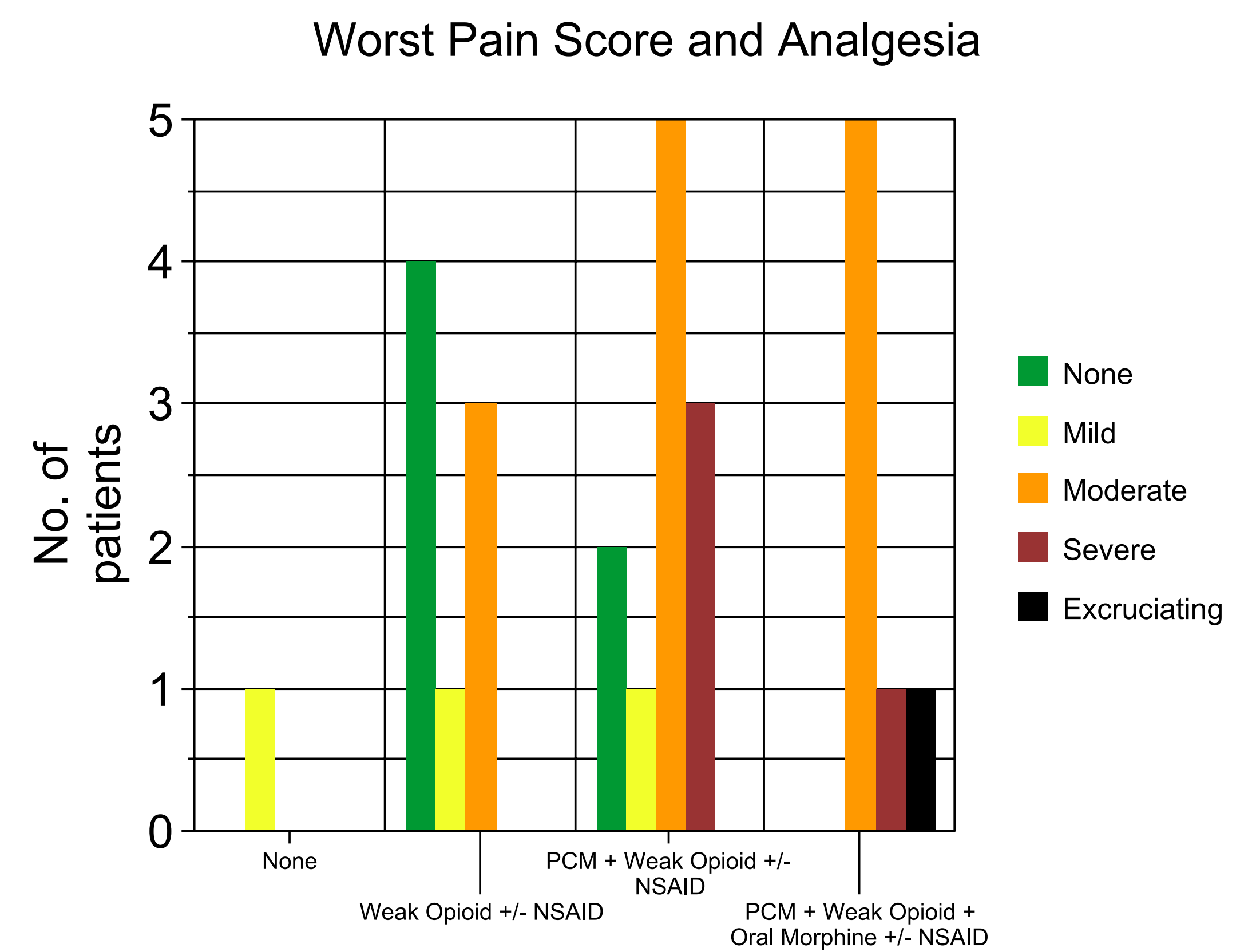
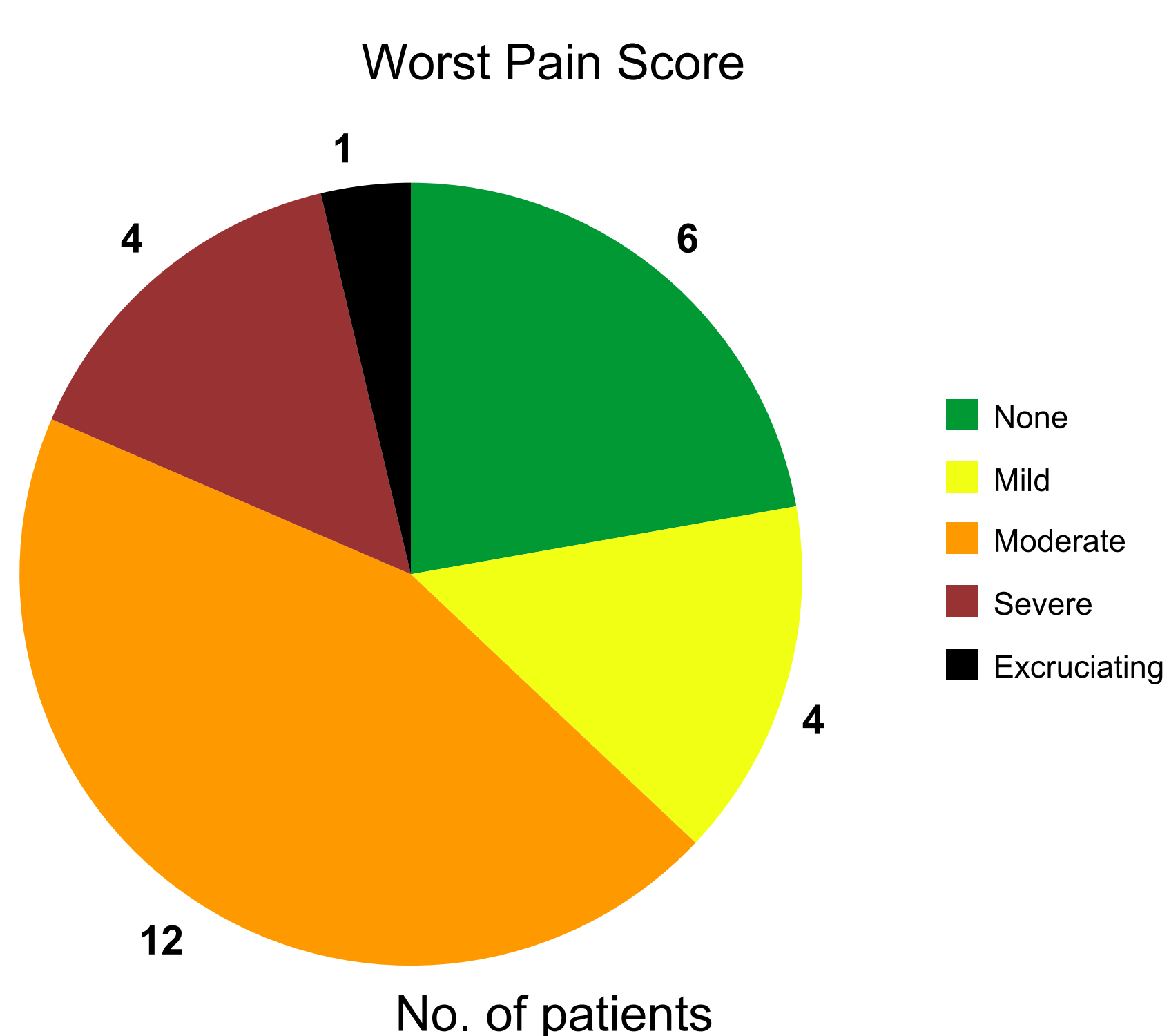
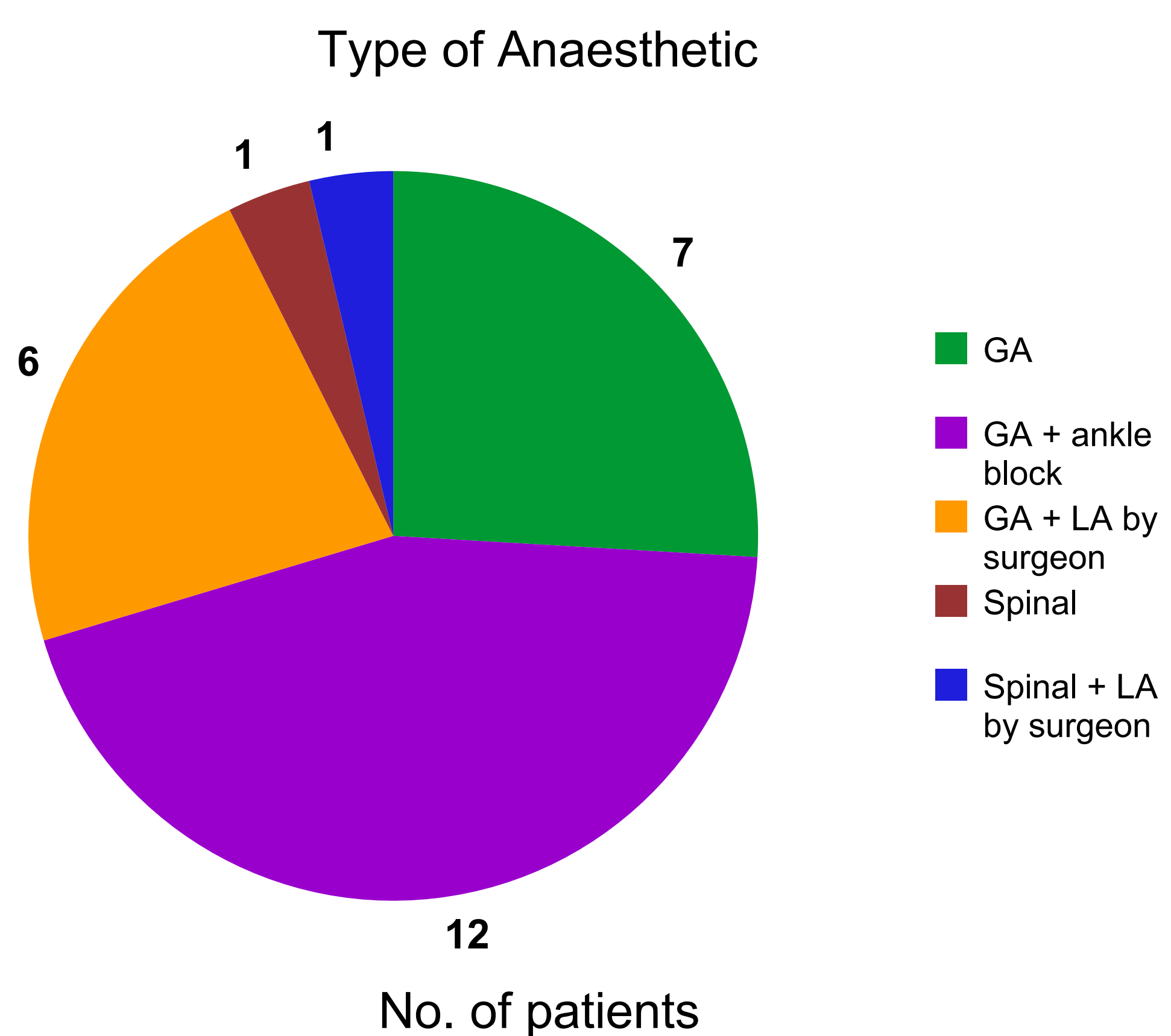
» Standards

Based on the 1997 Audit Commission report <5% of patients should experience \geq severe pain.¹

» Method

A questionnaire was designed and patients were followed up postoperatively as close to discharge as possible. Full data was collected on 27 patients over a 5 month period.

» Results



» Discussion

Pain relief appears inadequate as 5 patients (18.52%) experienced at least severe pain. Interestingly no patients were dissatisfied despite high pain scores. This curiosity has been noted previously and it is thought this is because patients expect pain following surgery.²

The patients with the highest levels of pain received the strongest analgesia. As the satisfaction ratings are high it would suggest that it is effective.

A weakness of the audit is the small number of patients as ideally more are required to really analyse the data. The next step is to follow up patients with a telephone survey as most patients (19) had LA which may have been still effective at discharge. Also the poor pain scores will be highlighted to the departments of anaesthesia and orthopaedic surgery with development of a pain guideline for foot surgery patients.

Acknowledgements

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References

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2. Commission on the Provision of Surgical Services. Pain After Surgery. Royal Colleges of Surgeons and Anaesthetists, London, 1990