The launch of Remifentanil-PCA in labour in Switzerland combined with web based continuous quality control

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**Key Points**
- Introduction of a new analgesic method for routine use in labour pain
- Website with questionnaire, SOP and results - www.remipca.org
- Audit project for routine use of Remifentanil-PCA in labour
- Nationwide spread with web based quality control

**Introduction**
Due to its profile of action the strong opioid Remifentanil qualifies as an ideal analgesic drug during labour. Applied as PCA (patient controlled analgesia) this method offers optimal safety and comfort for the parturient and child. Although frequently used in other countries its routine use has not yet been established in Switzerland.

**Method**
Initiated from Salem Hospital in Berne, a website was created to implement this method in Switzerland. This website contains a concise direction for the professionals, and a questionnaire to record each application in a database. This database comprises the course, the complications for mother and child as well as the satisfaction of all parties.

**Results**
After a pilot project with 40 parturients, this method was implemented for routine use in labour in our hospital. Until now, more than 600 women (>40% of all births in our hospital) delivered with the support of a Remifentanil-PCA. Pain score, side effects of mother and child and satisfaction of mother and midwife were analysed. 90% of parturients and midwives would choose this method again or recommend it for child birth.

**Discussion**
Despite reassuring results large numbers are often needed to detect rare complications or side effects. With the registration of every application of all participating hospitals via this website www.remipca.org the data pool grows continuously in a short time. This allows constant adjustment of the procedure as well as a quick feedback in case of adverse effects.

**Conclusion**
The routine use of Remifentanil-PCA in labour is a safe method with excellent acceptance of parturients, midwives, obstetricians and anaesthetists. With the help of a web based data collection we offer a quick nationwide launch and regular audits which provide excellent quality management and safety.

**References**