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LENGTH OF INTENSIVE CARE UNIT STAY IN  
ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL PATIENTS ON  
DEXMEDETOMIDINE COMPARED WITH

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received.

Dexmedetomidine is an alpha 2 agonist that has sedative and analgesic properties with less respiratory depression and central nervous system effects than benzodiazepines. The objective of this study is to determine whether the use of dexmedetomidine as a sedative decreases the length of stay and/or time on the ventilator in alcohol withdrawal patients in the intensive care unit compared with benzodiazepines. The study will consist of a retrospective chart review of patients admitted to The Medical Center of Aurora with a diagnosis of alcohol withdrawal during the time period January 2007 through January 2009. Patients to be reviewed will include those who received dexmedetomidine or benzodiazepines for treatment of withdrawal symptoms in the ICU. Primary outcomes include length of ICU/hospital stay and time on the ventilator, while safety and efficacy parameters will be analyzed as secondary outcomes. Full results will be presented.