Regional anesthesia techniques (neuraxial blockade)

{Color index: Important | Notes | Book | Extra | Editing File | comments or errors}

Resources: lecture slides, 435teamwork, Book (Julian stone)

Objectives

- Relevant anatomy and surface landmark for Neuraxial block.
- Differences between spinal and epidural.
- Equipment and local anesthetics.
- Indication and contraindication.
- Side effects, complications and treatment.
- LAST (local anesthesia toxicity)

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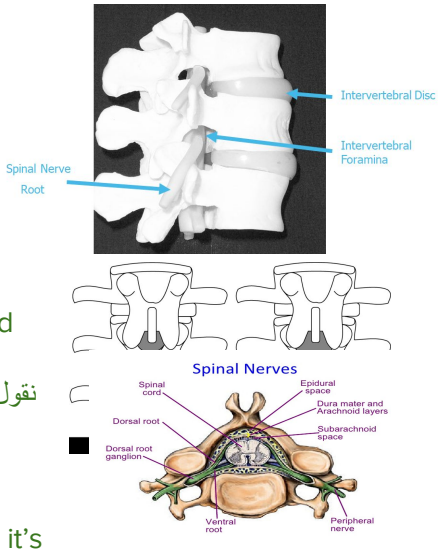
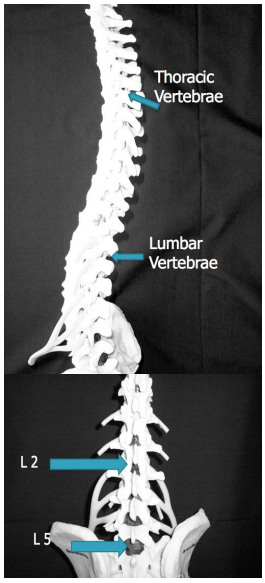
★ Anatomy: Knowledge of anatomy for neuraxial blockade is essential!



- 7 cervical vertebrae with 8 cervical nerves, 1 is between C1 and the occipital bone
- 12 thoracic vertebrae
- **5 lumbar vertebrae**
- Sacrum fused
- Coccyx
- In the vertebral column we have cervical lordosis, thoracic kyphosis, and lumbar lordosis.
- To straighten the lumbar lordosis we ask the patient to flex "نقول للمريض يدنق مثل الركوع أو السجود"
- In pregnant women lumbar lordosis is exaggerated so it can be a challenge for us.
- Important: The 5th sacral vertebrae has no laminae so we can't feel it so it's difficult for us to use, But in pediatrics you can feel it that's why we do **caudal block (low epidural)** for pediatrics.
- C1 and C2 are special because of odontoid process. The anterior-posterior diameter may be affected in rheumatoid patients (subluxation) and diabetics.

Individual Vertebral Anatomy:

- Each vertebra consists of:
  - **pedicle**, Has a notch up and down making an intervertebral foramina through which nerves leave the spine.
  - **transverse process**
  - **superior and inferior articular processes**
  - and a **spinous process.**



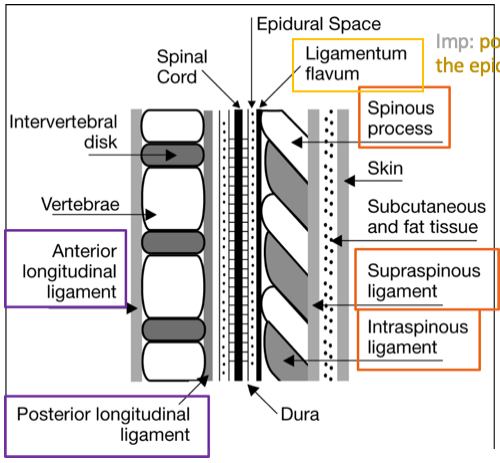
Vertebral joints:

- Each vertebra is connected to the next by **intervertebral discs**.
- There are **2 superior and inferior articular processes** (synovial joints) on each vertebra that allows for articulation.
- **Pedicles** contain a notch superiorly and inferiorly to allow the spinal nerve root to exit the vertebral column.
- Angle of **transverse process** will affect how the needle is orientated for epidural anesthesia or analgesia.
- With flexion the **spinous process** in the lumbar region is almost **horizontal**. In the thoracic region the spinous process is angled in a **slight caudal angle.**
- **Interlaminar spaces** are larger in the lower lumbar region.
  - If an anesthesia provider finds it challenging at one level it is important to remember that moving down one space may provide a larger space

IMPORTANT IMAGE

These are the structures your needle will pass through

Ligaments that support the vertebral column:



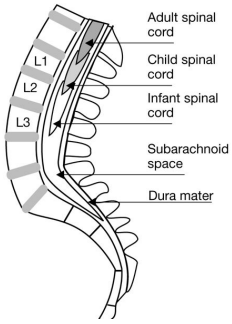
Ventral side ligaments:
Anterior and posterior longitudinal ligaments.

Dorsal side ligaments:
Important since these are the structures your needle will pass through!

Ligaments are identified by tactile sensation (feel), Dorsal ligaments are transversed during neuraxial blockade.

With experience the anesthesia provider will be able to identify anatomical structures by **tactile sensation** "feel".

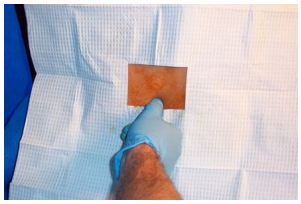
Termination of Spinal Cord:

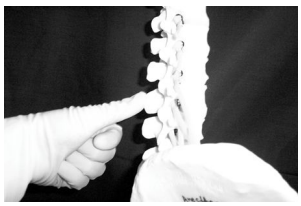


- **Adults:** usually ends at **L1**. *There are anatomical variations*.
  - For most adults it is generally safe to place a spinal needle below L2.
  - As a rule NO spinal anesthesia above L2, you can do L3, L4, L5, but NEVER above L2.
- **Children:** ends at **L2**
- **Infants: L3**
- So spinal cord ends at L2/L3 whle dura end at S2... between L2 and S2 we find cauda equina
- Theca (in latin) = dura (in english)
- We use bony landmarks because they are almost always accurate even if different body sizes

Surface Anatomy and Landmarks: MCQs + OSCE

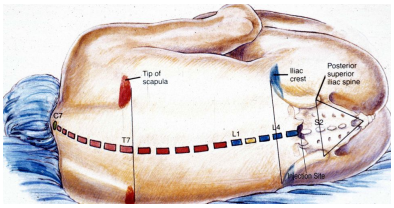
Locating prominent cervical and thoracic vertebrae:





- **C2** is the first palpable vertebrae
- **C7** is the **most prominent cervical vertebrae**
- With the patient's arms at the side the **tip of the scapula** generally corresponds with **T7**
- Angle of scapula is T7, spine of scapula is T3.
- **Spinous process** are generally palpable to help identify the **midline.**
  - **If unable to palpate the spinous process**? one can look at the upper crease of the buttocks and line up the midline as long as there is no scoliosis or other deformities of the spine
  - The 2 dimples we all have on our lower back is the posterior superior iliac spine on S2, which is the end of the epidural space.

Put your 2 fingers on each of the dimples and with the 3rd finger make an equilateral triangle and this is your caudal space on S5. so two fingers on S2 and one finger on S5 for caudal block (low epidural).



What is Tuffier's Line?

- A line drawn between the **highest points of both iliac crests** will yield either the body of **L4 spinous process** or the **L4-L5 interspace.**
- Also called intercristal line. You put your hands on the patient's waist and the line will dissect L4 spinous process, above and below this line is OK for spinal anesthesia. This line is extremely important.

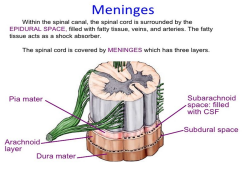
Anatomical Considerations of the Spinal Cord and Neuraxial Blockade:

The Subarachnoid Space is a continuous space that contains **CSF**, **Spinal cord** & **nerves.**

➔ **CSF:**

- Clear fluid that fills the **subarachnoid space**
- **Total volume** in adults is ~100-150 ml (2 ml/kg)
- Volume found in the subarachnoid space is ~35-45 ml. half in the brain and half surrounding the spinal cord.
- Continually produced at a rate of 450 ml per 24 hour period replacing itself 3-4 times
- **Reabsorbed** into the bloodstream by **arachnoid villi**.
- **Specific gravity** is between 1.003-1.007 (this will play a crucial role in the **baricity** of local anesthetic that one chooses)
- CSF plays a role in patient to patient variability, in relation to block height and sensory/motor regression (80% of the patient to patient variability)
- Body wt is the only measurement that coincides with CSF volume **(this becomes important in the obese and pregnant).**

Membranes that surround the spinal cord (meninges):



Pia mater	Arachnoid mater	Dura mater ("tough mother")
highly vascular	non vascular	extension of the cranial dura mater, extends from the foramen magnum to S2.
- covers the spinal cord and brain - Filum terminalis is an extension of the pia mater attaches to the periosteum of the coccyx.	attached to the dura mater. Principal barrier to the migration of medications in and out of the CSF.	

Epidural Space Anatomy: Its a potential space

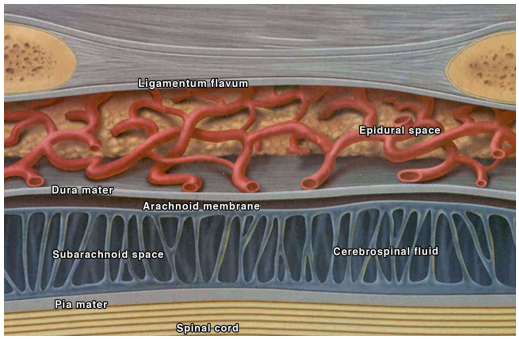
Extends from the foramen magnum to the sacral hiatus . The epidural space surrounds the dura mater anteriorly, laterally, and **most importantly** to us **posteriorly**.

The Bounds of the Epidural Space are as follows:

- **Anterior:** posterior longitudinal ligament connects the lamina from above and below, it's a very strong ligament, so most herniations happen laterally not anterior/posterior.
- **Lateral:** pedicles and intervertebral ligaments
- **Posterior:** ligamentum flavum:
  - Posterior to the epidural space
  - Extends from the foramen magnum to the sacral hiatus
  - Distance from skin to ligament varies from 3-8 cm in the lumbar area. **It is 4 cm in 50% of the patients and 4-6 cm in 80% of the patients.**
  - Thickness of the ligamentum flavum also varies. In the thoracic area it can range from 3-5 mm and in the lumbar it can range from 5-6 mm. And thickness on the same level varies (the part in midline is the thickest part of this ligament)
  - This ligament is thick and its function is to connect lamina up and down

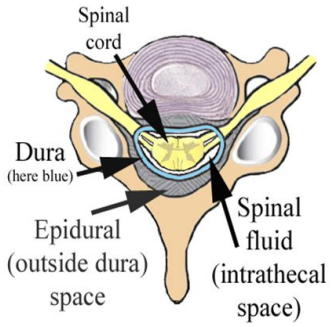
Contents of the Epidural Space:

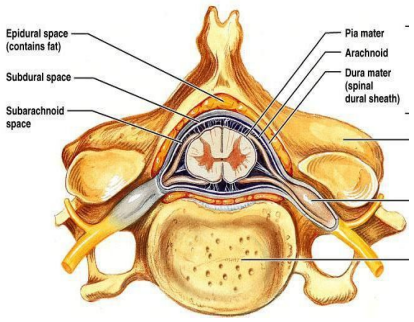
- **Fat:** acts as a shock absorber.
- **Areolar tissue**
- **Lymphatics**
- **Blood vessels** including the **Batson venous plexus**

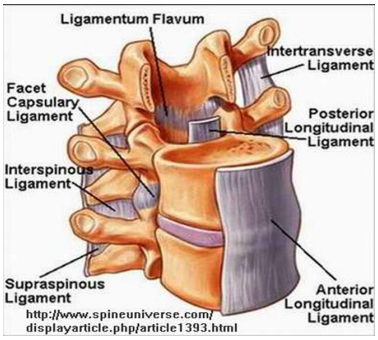


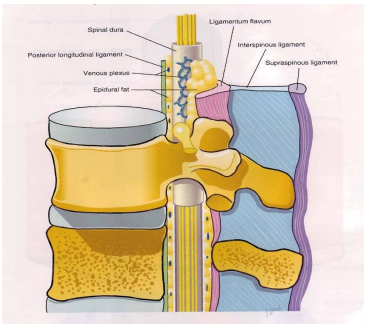
Batson veins are valveless veins, and they are connected to the thoracic veins (which have a negative pressure). Because batson veins are valveless, this negative pressure is passed on the epidural space.

We know we are in the epidural space when we come upon negative pressure (it is difficult to pass the needle).









★ Spinal anesthesia:

Type of the Central (neuraxial) blockade where Injection of **small amounts** 2-3 ml of local anaesthetics **into the CSF** at the level **below L2** where the spinal cord ends, anesthesia of the **lower body part below the umbilicus (T10)** is achieved.

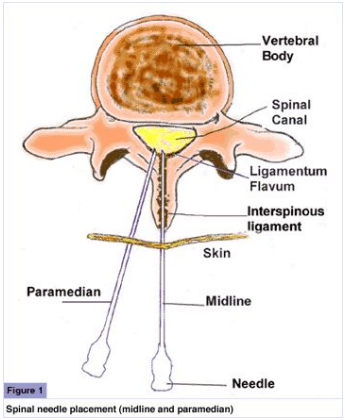
Indication	Contraindications	
Operations below the umbilicus: • Most commonly used in C-sections (decreased maternal death 20 times with it) • hernia repairs, • gynaecological, urological operation, • orthopedics, • Unilateral hip replacement (not bilateral because bilateral takes a long time). • any operation on the perineum or genitalia. • Short operations, no longer than 2-3 hours.	**Absolute:** • **Refusal** (most definitive contraindication) • Infection like bed sores or abscess around the site involved (to not carry infection into CSF) • **Coagulopathy & anticoagulated patient.** Patient is on warfarin, has a prosthetic valve, hemophiliac, because its a closed space, a small amount of blood will cause hematoma and cause compression. • Severe hypovolemia spinal anesthesia cause sensory and motor and sympathetic, causing vein dilation and low BP. • Increased intracranial pressure • Severe aortic or mitral stenosis (so they face difficulty dealing with the sympathetic effect)	**Relative:** Use your best judgment

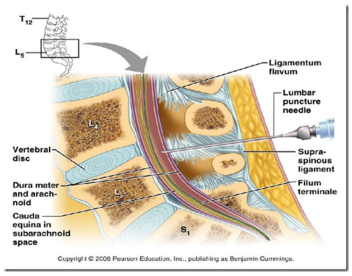
Spinal Technique very rapid onset

- **Sterility**
- I.V cannula for 1 liter of crystalloid preloading and for the possible need for fluid resuscitation in case there was hypotension , monitoring: 5 or 3 ECG, pilsoxemiter, BP cuff,
- **Position: Sitting or Lateral decubitus.** In both cases their back must be curled forward in order to widen the intervertebral disc spaces.

- **Single shot technique**

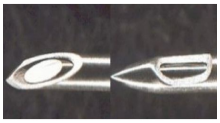
Midline Approach	Paramedian or Lateral Approach
1. Skin 2. Superficial fascia 3. Spinous ligament 4. Interspinous ligament 5. Ligamentum flavum 6. Epidural space 7. Dura mater 8. Arachnoid mater 9. Intrathecal space	Same as midline excluding supraspinous & interspinous ligaments. 1 cm right or left of the midline, you'll bypass all these structures and go from skin directly to ligamentum flavum. Sometimes we use this when patient is not able enough to bind forward)

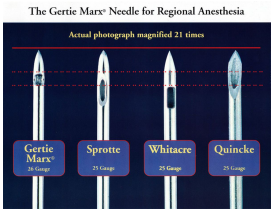




Spinal needles types:

- Mainly two types: Quincke and pencil point (eg. Gertie marx, sprotte and whitacre are all called pencil point)
- Pencil point needles are better in terms of post dural puncture headache because when they penetrate the dura they only separate it rather than creating a hole behind that leaks CSF.
- You need to choose a large gauge needle to reduce the risk of post-dural puncture headache (the larger the gauge the smaller the diameter) . We usually use 27 gauge pencil point needles.
- Young females are prone to PDPH so it is quite common in obstetric procedures.





Post-dural puncture headache (PDPH):MCQs

- Post dural puncture headache is a side effect of spinal anesthesia.
- Develop **12-48 hours** after spinal anesthesia Related to the puncture size.
- **Headache** improve when lying supine.
- Increase when standing upright. If not then it is not a PDPH.

Differential Diagnosis

- Meningitis
- Sinusitis
- Migraine
- Pregnancy related hypertension
- Intracranial Pathology (sol)
- Dural Venous thrombosis,
- Pneumocephalus,
- Spontaneous intracranial hypotension.

- **Mechanism:**
  - Persistent **leakage of CSF** Leading to:
    1. **Decrease in CSF volume**> Shift of intracranial contents > stretching the meninges,
    2. **Decrease in CSF pressure**> Activating adenosine receptors > vasodilation of intracranial vessels.

  Headache happens because the CSF is dripping.
  Monro law: the volume in the cranial cavity consists of fixed brain matter, CSF, blood.
  If the CSF decreases so the blood will increase, meaning we have vasodilation = headache. Giving caffeine will cause vasoconstriction and the patient will feel better.
- **Treatment:**
  - **Conservative**: by giving fluids, caffeine, abdominal strap.
  - **Epidural blood patch:** Taking the patient's own blood and closing the site with it (fibrin and other blood products will close the defect and the relief happens almost immediately).

Factors affecting the level of spinal anesthesia:

Most important factors:

1. Baricity of anesthetic solution (relative to CSF)

Baricity (a concern only in spinal anesthesia)		
Hyperbaric >1.007 (Heavy)	**Hypobaric** <1.003	**Isobaric**
Typically prepared by mixing local with **dextrose**	Prepared by mixing local with **sterile water**	Neutral flow that can be manipulated by positioning Increased dose has more effect on duration than dermatomal spread. We don't use it in spinal. In epidural anesthesia the baricity doesn't matter so we use an isobaric solution.
Flow is to most dependent area due to gravity Very predictable spread The drug is liquid and CSF is also liquid. In case of spinal anesthesia we give hyperbaric drug because we want the drug to sink down by gravity. We don't want the drug to float upward toward the brain.	Flow is to highest part of CSF column.	
Hyperbaric bupivacaine (commercial name: Marcaine) • Sterile, clear • **Preservative free** • **3 ml ampoules** • See the expiry date • Be sure it is **bupivacaine**??		**Isobaric bupivacaine** (20 ml) Slow onset (30 min), less dense block. Used for epidural anesthesia.

Note: Be cognizant of high & low regions of spinal column

2. Patient positioning: During and immediately after injection

3. Drug dosage

4. Site of injection.

Other factors:

- Age
- CSF
- Curvature of spine
- Drug volume
- Intra-abdominal pressure
- Needle direction
- Patient height
- Pregnancy

Differential block of local anesthetic:

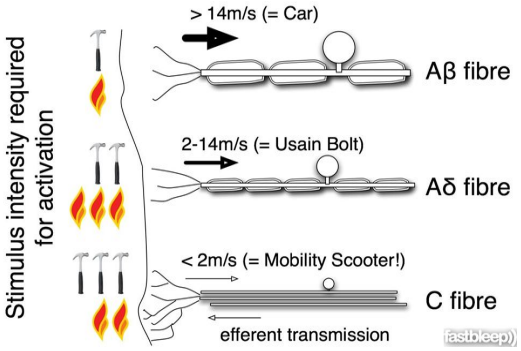
C. Classification of nerve fibers (in humans)

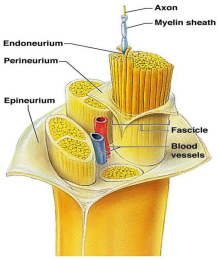
Fiber type	Function according to fiber type (Lloyd and Hunt types I–IV)	Diameter (μm)	Conduction rate (m/s)
Aα	Skeletal muscle efferent, afferents in muscle spindles (Ib) and tendon organs (Ib)	11–16	60–80
Aβ	Mechanoafferents of skin (II)	6–11	30–60
Aγ	Muscle spindle efferents	1–6	2–30
Aδ	Skin afferents (temperature and "fast" pain) (III)		
B	Sympathetic preganglionic; visceral afferents	3	3–15
C	Skin afferents ("slow" pain); sympathetic postganglionic afferents (IV)	0.5–1.5 (unmyelinated)	0.25–1.5

(After Erlanger and Gasser)

Table 3: Types of neurons blocked with local anesthetics

Neuron type	Function	Myelination	Order of Blockade	Signs of Blockade
A alpha	Motor -skeletal muscle	Myelinated	Fifth	Loss of motor function
A beta	Sensory – touch, pressure	Myelinated	Fourth	Loss of sensation to touch and pressure
A gamma	Motor - muscle spindles proprioception	Myelinated	Third	Loss of proprioception
A delta	**Fast pain temperature**	**Myelinated**	**Second**	**Pain relief, loss of temperature sensation**
B	Autonomic, Pre-ganglionic sympathetic	Myelinated	First	Increased skin temperature
C	**Slow pain, autonomic, postganglionic sympathetic, polymodal nociceptors**	**Unmyelinated**	**Second**	**Pain relief, loss of temperature sensation**



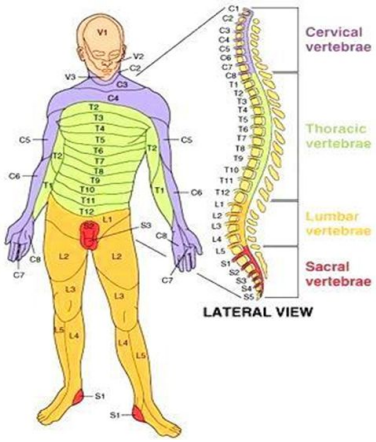


- Spinal nerve is a combination of: sensory (different types) and motor and autonomic.
- Autonomic part is two types preganglionic B Fibers and post ganglionic C fibers.
- Postganglionic autonomic nerve fibers in the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system are unmyelinated as are C-sensory nerve fibers that support temperature sensation. Preganglionic autonomic fibers and sensory fibers involved in cold and pain sensation are small myelinated nerve fibers.
- A fibers are motor and are heavily myelinated.

- The different types of fibers in the table have different sizes and myelination, thus, sensitivity to local anesthesia is different between them. This result in **"differential block"**
- **With local anesthesia, B fibers are affected first, then C and A delta together, then A beta, lastly myelinated motor A alpha fibers.**
- So the first thing we see is vasodilation and redness and warmth of lower limb because "B" affected first (below the injection) while the hands become cold... Secondly cold and pain sensation are lost together (because of C and A delta fibers are affected together). Lastly A alpha motor function is affected.

- A delta (sensory): small, myelinated/ A alpha (motor): big, myelinated
- B fibers (sympathetic)/ C fibers: small, unmyelinated
- Block order: B> C=A delta > A beta>A alpha
- Note that Alpha is the last one to get blocked **but the first one that gets back**!
- B viber is the first to be blocked and the last to get back (most sensitive)
- Increased temperature in B block is compensated by cold hands

Sympathetic, Sensory & Motor Blockade



Spinal Injection:

- **Sympathetic** block is 2 dermatomes **higher** than sensory block
- **Motor** block is 2 dermatomes **lower** than sensory block
- **Detect the sensory level by cold sensation test (Ice cubes)**.
- if we want to check which level the block have reached then we asses cold sensation. So we take an ice cube and asses where the patient cannot feel it anymore.
- Assessing the level is possible for cold sensation while it is difficult to asses to which level motor and sympathetic function is preserved.
- We can estimate roughly the level of motor and sympathetic block. How?
    - Two segments above the last cold sensation felt is the sympathetic block.
    - Two segments below the last cold sensation felt is the motor block.

Example: if level of sensory block was found on T4 then sympathetic block is estimated to be at T2. this is a problem because that area may affect cardiac acceleration nerves and cause bradycardia and profound hypertension.
Another example:
If he couldn't feel it at T8 then sympathetic block is at T6 and motor block is at T10.

Spinal Anesthesia Levels (*You must know dermatomes*)

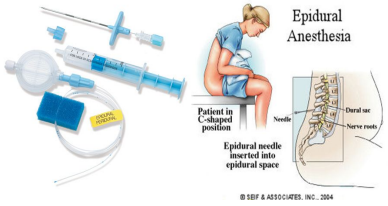
Dermatome	Application
C_4 (clavicle)	Chest surgery
T_4 - T_5 (nipples)	upper abdominal surgery
T_6 - T_8 (xiphoid)	intestinal surgery, appendectomy, gynecologic pelvic surgery, and ureter and renal pelvic surgery
T_8 (lower border of ribcage)	Abdominal surgery
T_{10} (umbilicus)	transurethral resection, obstetric vaginal delivery, and hip surgery
L_1 (inguinal ligament)	transurethral resection, if no bladder distension, thigh surgery, lower limb amputation
L_2 - L_3 (knee and below)	foot surgery
S_2 - S_5 (perineal)	perineal surgery, hemorrhoidectomy, anal dilation

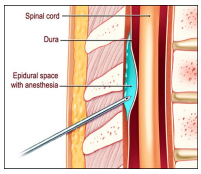
Complications:

- Failed block
- Back pain
- Spinal headache (PDPH)
    - More common in women ages 13-40
    - **Larger needle size** increase severity
    - **Onset** typically occurs first or second day post-op
    - **Treatment:** Bed rest, Fluids, Caffeine, Blood patch
- Epidural hematoma if patient is on anticoagulants.
- Epidural abscess in immunocompromised or with improper aseptic technique.
- Meningitis
- Cauda equina
- Neurological deficit
- TNS. Transient neural stimulus, pain in buttocks, then analgesia, then nothing.
- Bradycardia--- Cardiac arrest
- **Hypotension (MOST COMMON COMPLICATION** almost must happen if the anesthesia is working! That's why they put predosing IV line before starting)
  Best way to treat is physiologic not pharmacologic
    - **Primary Treatment:** Increase the **cardiac preload** using large IV fluid bolus within 30 minutes prior to spinal placement, **minimum 1 liter of crystalloids**
    - **Secondary Treatment:** Pharmacologic vasopressor agents (**Ephedrine** or phenyl ephrine).
    - Pharmacological treatment is incase i can't give crystalloid preloading like in cardiac patients or if physiologic treatment fails.

The most common side effect of spinal anesthesia is hypotension not PDPH. (Very Important)

★ Epidural anesthesia





- Administered with patient in C-shaped position
- **Loss of resistance technique** to saline or air.
- For precision, while advancing the needle we support the needle by putting 3 fingers on patient back preventing accidental unwanted extra push of needle… we stop advancing the needle one loss of resistance noticed.
- **Catheter technique:** The catheter should stay 5 cm inside the epidural space, so if we get to the epidural space (by loss of resistance) at 5.5 cm then we insert the catheter in 10.5 cm. If more than 5 cm it could migrate, if less it could get dislodged.
- **Isobaric bupivacaine** (20 ml), **Slow onset (30 min)** unlike spinal which has immediate response, less dense block.
- **Touhy needle.** Large needle, 18 gauge

Epidural Test dose: (IMP in OSCE)

- After checking the catheter > Careful aspiration, NO blood or CSF
- **3 ml Lidocaine 1.5% mixed with epinephrine 5 micg/ml**
- With careful monitoring, give the epidural injection bupivacaine in allequete.

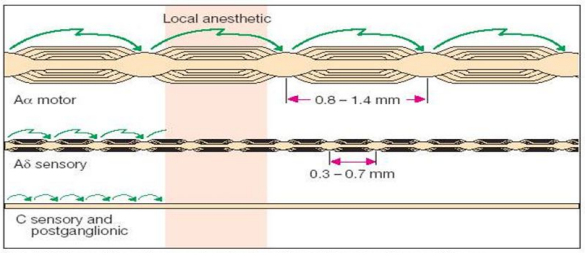
20 ml is a large quantity if it gets inside the vessels it will cause local anesthesia systemic toxicity (LAST) so we need a test dose "ذواقة"

Mention in OSCE that ECG, BP cuff, pulse oximeter and IV line preloading are attached before beginning and coagulation profile and immunology tested. Then We inject the preparation (3+5 mentioned above) and look for tachycardia, if it happens then I am inside a vessel. If no tachycardia and no increase in BP (20 above systolic) so I am safe. Then I ask the patient to move his legs, if he cannot then I am in the intrathecal space (if I didn't test and injected all amount then total spinal anesthesia happens!).
If no change in BP and limb is moving then continue injecting 5, 5, 5... etc until 20 ml reached.
Test dose only used for epidural.

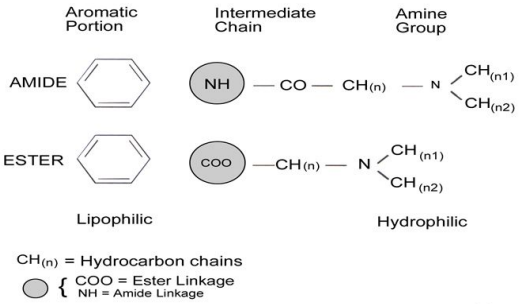
★ Local anesthetics:

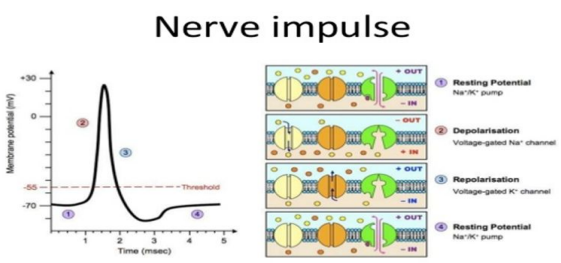
TABLE 2. Local anesthetics

AMIDE GROUP	ESTER GROUP
Lidocaine	Cocaine
Mepivacaine	Procaine
Bupivacaine	Chloroprocaine
Etidocaine	Tetracaine
Prilocaine	



B. Inhibition of impulse conduction in different types of nerve fibers

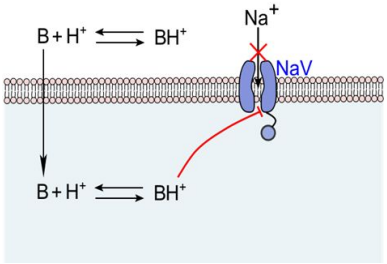




Prilocaine + lidocaine = emla cream for minor surgery, cannula insertion and laser hair removal

Mechanism of Action:

Un-ionized local anesthetic diffuses into nerve axon > ionized form > binds the receptors of the Na channel in the inactivated state.
It blocks voltage gated sodium channels from inside cell (by the amine group in the anesthetic agent).



Duration of Action:

- The degree of protein binding is the most important factor
- Lipid solubility is the second leading determining factor
- Greater protein bound + increase lipid solubility = longer duration of action

Toxicity & Allergies

- **Esters:** Increase risk for allergic reaction due to para-aminobenzoic acid produced through ester-hydralysis
- **Amides:** Greater risk of plasma toxicity due to slower metabolism in liver.

Local Anesthetic Systemic Toxicity (LAST)

Causes:

- **Exceeding the maximum safe dose**:
  - **Bupivacaine (2mg/kg),**
  - Lidocaine (5mg/kg).
  - Lidocaine + adrenaline (7mg/kg).
- **Intravascular injection**
  - More dangerous, regardless of the dose and happens within seconds. Related to CMAX (acceleration, or rate of rising of local anesthesia level in plasma)

ممكن أحد من تركيز 15 يجيه LAST بينما شخص ثاني وصل 20 وما تأثر. السبب هنا هو الأول يصير عنده بسرعة بينما الثاني ببطء . فهو بسبب CMAX وليس مقدار المادة. بالتالي CMAX أخطر شيء.

Manifestations:

CNS: activation phase first (as tingling, agitation...) then depression phase (as loss of consciousness...)
First the patient will experience oral numbness then blurred vision then becomes unresponsive, then convulsions then coma.

CVS:

- Tachycardia and hypertension.
- Hypotension
- Wide QRS
- VF
- Cardiac arrest

Tachycardia then supraventricular tachycardia then wide QRS then ventricular fibrillation then arrest

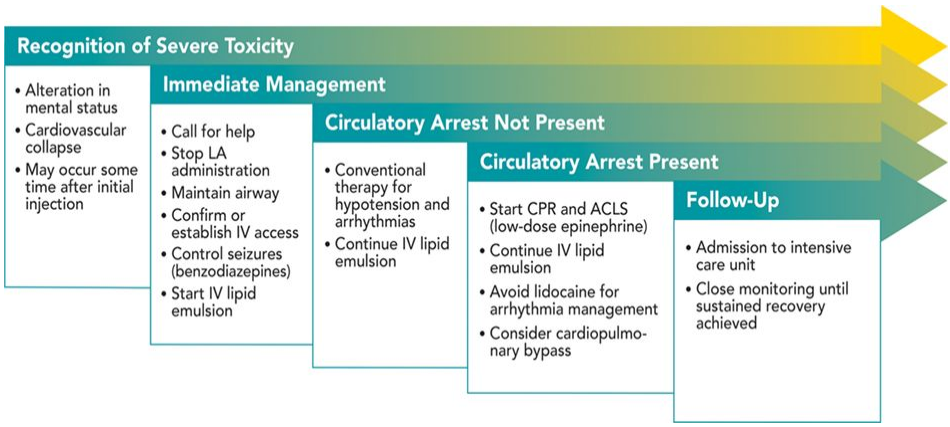
BOX 1 *Manifestations of Systemic Toxicity*

Minor (Associated With Low Plasma Levels)	Major (Associated With High Plasma Levels)
■ Perioral numbness	■ Sudden loss of consciousness
■ Facial tingling	■ Tonic-clonic seizures
■ Restlessness	■ Cardiovascular collapse
■ Tinnitus	■ Cardiac arrest
■ Metallic taste	
■ Vertigo	
■ Slurred speech	

We get CNS manifestations first, activation phase then depression phase.
First the patient will experience oral numbness then blurred vision then becomes unresponsive, then convulsions then coma.

Management:

Give Lipid emulsion (20% so 200 mg) effusion then do your regular CPR.
How lipid emulsion work? It builds up lipid phase in plasma... thus will pull the drug from the receptors to plasma.



How to calculate the maximum dose of local anesthesia?

Q1: *A patient is 50 kg. How much is the maximum dose of (bupivacaine 0.5%)?*

Answer: maximum dose of bupivacaine is 2mg/kg. Multiply it by patient's weight: 2(mg/kg) **x** 50kg =100 mg convert drug concentration in percentage to mg/ml by multiplying x10 (0.5%x10=5mg/ml)

- Now divide 100mg ÷ (5mg/ml)=20 ml

Q2: *A patient is 50 kg. How much is the maximum dose of (Lidocaine 2%)?*

Answer: maximum dose of Lidocaine is 5mg/kg. Multiply it by patient's weight: 5(mg/kg) **x** 50kg =250 mg convert drug concentration in percentage to mg/ml by multiplying x10 (2%x10=20mg/ml)

- Now divide 250mg ÷ (20mg/ml) = 12.5 ml

Comparison between spinal and epidural anesthesia:

Spinal anesthesia	**Epidural anesthesia**
Hyperbaric anesthetic	Isobaric anesthetic
Spinal cord not isolated from agent so: - Small amount of drug injected (2-3ml) - Gives rapid action after injection	The anesthetic agent has to distribute within dural cuffs in different levels so: - Bigger amount of drug needed (around 20) - Takes around 30 minutes to give action
Must be injected below L2	No limit
Single shot (effect may last 2-3 h)	Catheter (effect may stay longer as desired)

Practice Questions:

Q1: Which one of the following is suitable local anesthesia for spinal block?

A. Procaine
B. Cocaine
C. Bupivacaine
D. Tetracaine

Q2: A known case of coagulopathy for emergency cesarean section due to placental abruption. What is your anesthesia plan for this patient?

A. Spinal anesthesia
B. General anesthesia with inhalational induction
C. Combined spinal and epidural
D. General anesthesia with rapid sequence induction

Q3: which is the most vascular layer during passage of a spinal needle ?

A. Epidural space
B. Ligamentum flavum
C. Intrathecal space
D. Subdural space

Q4: sensory level loss which reached the level of xiphisternum. What is the anatomical landmark corresponds to dermatological level of sensory loss?

A. T1
B. T4
C. T6
D. T10

Q5: A male patient is booked for transurethral prostatic resection under spinal anesthesia. What is the spinal anesthetic level (Dermatome) should reach to provide adequate anesthesia?

A. C4-C4
B. T3-T4
C. T7-T8
D. T10-L1

Answers:

Q1: C | Q2: D | Q3: A | Q4: C | Q5: D |