: An audit of patient experience in elective orthopaedic surgery receiving interscalene blocks

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Introduction

Interescalene blocks:

- Effective for upper limb surgery analgesia
- Perceived by many as high risk
- What do we know about patient experience?
- Our project aimed to identify patient experience of these blocks

Methods

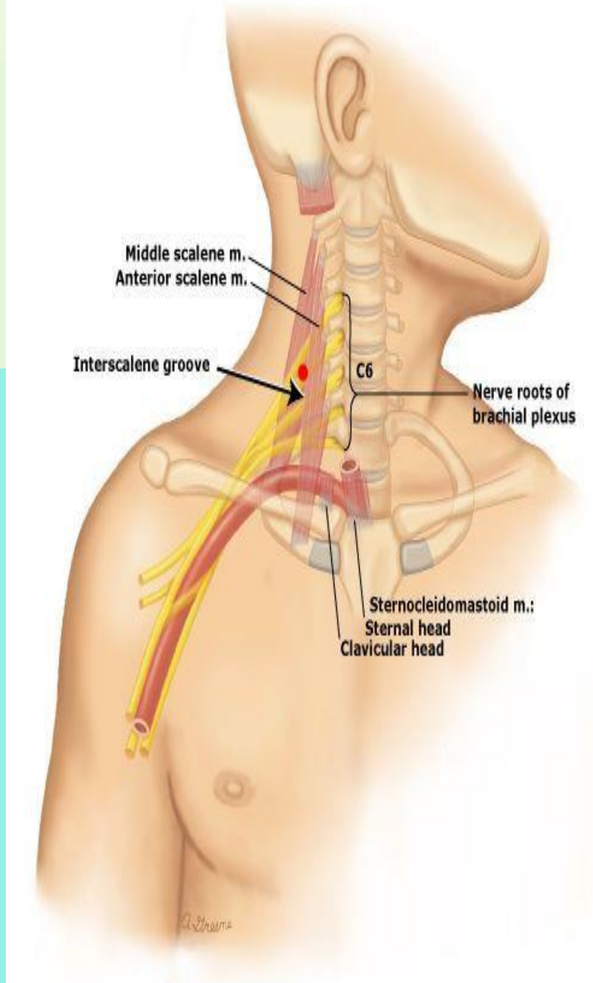
- Prospective study
- 60 non consecutive patients between Aug 18 – Jan 19
- Data collected via electronic records and telephone interview
- Consent obtained
- We compared pain transition, length of block, constituents and patient experience

Results

Capacity/risks remembered	5/60 correctly remembered >2 risks
Formal consent	44/60 remembered a formal consent
Information provided	15/60 thought they had enough information
Anxiety	20/60 patients were anxious after hearing risks
Block again?	50/60 patients were happy with the result and would have again
Block Constituents	Most commonly 20ml 0.25% levobupivacaine – no significant differences in patient perspective with variances
Average time for block to wear off (patient perspective)	18 hours – not affected by block constituents or time of block

Discussion

- Overall patients happy with blocks and pain relief
- Consent is poorly documented, retained and explained
- No significant difference in pain relief based on constituents/time of day
- Patients would like more information (45/60 thought written information would be useful)
- The same discharge medications were given to nearly all patients, of note 50% of those receiving shoulder replacements were not satisfied with pain transition
- Interventions should focus on pain management in invasive procedures, consent and patient information



Recommendations – Learning points

Introduce a patient information leaflet, explicitly detailing risks and expectations from a block, and re-audit to assess impact.
Larger study to look specifically at whether patients undergoing procedures more invasive than arthroscopy are being given adequate post operative analgesia, as currently they are supplied with “one size fits all”.

Reference for interscalene picture; mereresidency.com, "Interscalene Block-a brief video review with some c6 level anatomy for fun"; available at https://www.mereresidency.com/2015/01/09/interscalene-block-a-brief-video-review-with-some-c6-level-anatomy-for-fun/ accessed online 1/4/2019
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