INFOGRAPHICS IN ANESTHESIOLOGY

Complex Information for Anesthesiologists Presented Quickly and Clearly

ANESTHESIOLOGY

How Low Can You Go?

The ideal location for local anesthetic injection for sciatic nerve blocks is debated. Options include:

- Extraneural injection
  - Slower onset
  - Less success
  - Established approach

- Intraneural injection
  - Faster onset
  - Greater success
  - Safety in question

5 weeks after a 15 ml extraneural injection, axonal dysfunction is observed with a significant reduction in action potential amplitude.

Similarly, 5 weeks after a 15 ml intraneural injection, axonal dysfunction is observed with a significant reduction in action potential amplitude.

Cappelleri et al. determined the minimum intraneural volume to achieve a sciatic nerve block:

- ropivacaine 1%
- 6.6 ml intraneural (95% CI, 6.4 to 6.7)
- 19 ± 12 min onset time
- Complete sciatic nerve block

While the persistent electrophysiologic changes observed did not have any associated clinical symptoms, additional study of longer-term outcomes for intraneural injections is necessary.

Infographic created by Jonathan P. Wanderer, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and James P. Rathmell, Brigham and Women’s Health Care/Harvard Medical School. Illustration by Annemarie Johnson, Vivo Visuals. Address correspondence to Dr. Wanderer: jonathan.p.wanderer@vanderbilt.edu.
