spread of alcohol posteriorly along the diaphragm, toward the lumbar plexus. This observation alone justifies my alteration of the classic technique.

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REFERENCES


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Preventing Air Embolism While Inserting Central Catheters

To the Editor—In their recent report,1 Horrow et al. have stated that: “Despite several precautions which would minimize the likelihood of air entrapment into the circulation, air embolism occurred.”

We would appreciate their comments on several points concerning their approach: 1) Why was a large introducer used to insert a 16-gauge ordinary iv catheter? 2) Why was a diaphragm-occluded introducer not used? 3) Was there any reason not to insert a CVP line after induction of anesthesia under positive pressure ventilation?

We believe that either a diaphragm-occluded2 introducer or the other measures mentioned above would probably prevent this complication.

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