(New) Images in obstetric anesthesia: lumbar tattoos

Anesthésie médullaire et tatouage lombaire

Keywords: Tattoo; Pregnancy; Obstetric anesthesia; Labor analgesia; Regional; Neuraxial; Complications

Mots clés : Tatouage ; Grossesse ; Anesthésie obstétricale ; Complications

Although the potential hazards of regional anesthesia in patients with lumbar tattoos remain controversial [1,2] it may seem prudent to avoid a hollow needle insertion (possible tissue entrapment in its bore as the needle passes to the deeper structures) through a tattoo for neuraxial blocks. Vasold et al. [3] recently provided in vitro evidence that the tattoos colorants—industrial pigments, which have never been intended (and produced) by the chemical industry to be used in humans for ornamental purposes (but rather to stain consumer goods) may indeed contain hazardous (e.g. toxic and/or carcinogenic) compounds.

In their practice of obstetric anesthesia the authors of this communication encountered a 21-year-old healthy female at 33 weeks gestation who was in labor and requested labor analgesia. Preanesthetic back examination revealed large tattoos in her lumbar area (Fig. 1). An uneventful epidural block was performed in a standard manner (one attempt at L3–4 interspace) with an 18 GA Tuohy–Schliff epidural needle in-between the tattoos (to avoid possible hollow needle tattoo puncture-related complications).

References


K.M. Kuczkowski *
R.D. Hope
UCSD Medical Center, Department of Anesthesiology and Reproductive Medicine,
University of California San Diego, 200 West Arbor Drive, 92103-870 San Diego, CA, USA
E-mail address: kkuczkowski@ucsd.edu
(K.M. Kuczkowski).

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*M Corresponding author.

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Mastectomie sous anesthésie locale tumescente avec dosage plasmatique de la lidocaïne

Tumescent local anesthesia for mastectomy: lidocaine plasma concentration

Mots clés : Anesthésie locale tumescente ; Cancer du sein ; Lidocaïne ; Pharmacocinétique

Keywords: Tumescent local anesthesia; Lidocaine; Pharmacology; Mastectomy

Les alternatives à l’anesthésie générale en chirurgie du sein sont nombreuses dans la littérature : anesthésie péridurale, bloc paravertébral, blocs intercostaux multiples, anesthésie intrapleurale... Nous souhaitons rapporter une observation de mastectomie pour laquelle il a été fait appel à une technique d’anesthésie locale peu ou pas connue des anesthésistes français : l’anesthésie locale tumescente (ALT). Cette technique se caractérise par l’injection intratissulaire et sous-cutanée de grands volumes d’anesthésiques locaux adrénaínés à très faibles concentrations.