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

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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

Despite the reduced intraneural volume utilized, axonal dysfunction with reduced action potential amplitude was observed at both 5-week and 6-month follow-ups.

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