

Anesthesiology Rounds
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Analgesia for total knee arthroplasty

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Objectives:

- Identify and prioritize the analgesic methods applicable to total knee arthroplasty (TKA)
- Describe the different regional techniques available for TKA, particularly the femoral and sciatic nerve blocks, their advantages and their drawbacks
- Realize the importance of relying on multimodal approaches with regard to analgesic management and rehabilitation of patients undergoing TKA

Questions: (one answer only)

1. Regarding analgesia following TKA, it is true to say that:
 - a. Epidural analgesia should be the option chosen for most patients.
 - b. Analgesia by continuous femoral block is equivalent to that provided by epidural analgesia.
 - c. Intrathecal morphine allows good early rehabilitation.
 - d. The knee should be immobilized for the first 24 hr following surgery.
 - e. A femoral block induces more side effects than epidural analgesia.
2. Inserting a sciatic catheter in addition to a femoral catheter :
 - a. The patient needs to be moved during the insertion procedure.
 - b. Is impossible due to the high dosage of local anesthetics needed, which can be dangerous.
 - c. Diminishes postoperative pain for most patients.
 - d. Makes the postoperative assessment of the sciatic nerve's integrity impossible.
 - e. Will generally be sufficient for the surgical procedure in the operating room.

3. Articular infiltration:

- a. Is a good alternative when LRA is impossible or difficult.
- b. Is superior to perineural blocks because it is more rapidly executed.
- c. There is no need to calculate local anesthetic doses, since the injection is peripheral.
- d. Is not as efficient as a single-injection femoral block.
- e. Must be executed with a mixture that does not contain adrenaline.

4. Perineural locoregional analgesia:

- a. Is unnecessary and disorganizes the functioning of the operating room.
- b. Allows early mobilization.
- c. Is as efficient without the addition of acetaminophens and NSAID.
- d. Does not influence the in-hospital length of stay.
- e. The catheters should be left in place for one week.

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