

## 54. LUMBAR PLEXUS BLOCK WITH PERINEURAL CATHETER AND SCIATIC NERVE BLOCK FOR TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY

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**Background and Objectives:** Combined lumbar plexus block with general anesthesia has been described for total hip arthroplasty. We describe the use of continuous lumbar plexus block with sciatic nerve block as an alternative anesthetic for total hip arthroplasty.

**Methods:** A retrospective chart review was performed on 19 patients who underwent total hip arthroplasty at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from June until December, 2000. Perioperative narcotic use, operative time, and operative blood loss were compared.

**Results:** Of the 19 patients reviewed, 10 received blocks with lumbar plexus perineural catheter placement and 9 underwent general anesthesia. The patient groups were similar by age and ASA class. There was no significant difference in narcotic use and operative time between the two groups. Mean operative blood loss tended to be lower in the block group ( $350 \pm 138$  cc) compared to the general anesthesia group ( $772 \pm 145$  cc,  $p=0.0507$ )

**Conclusions:** Continuous lumbar plexus block with sciatic nerve block has not previously been described for total hip arthroplasty. Anesthesia for total hip arthroplasty using these blocks was as successful as general anesthesia. Peripheral nerve blockade may provide superior intraoperative outcomes as suggested by lower operative blood loss and potentially lower transfusion exposure. Lumbar plexus block with perineural catheter and sciatic nerve block with perioperative sedation is an effective alternative to general anesthesia for total hip arthroplasty.