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Does epidural 1% ropivacaine improve the blockade of sacral segments?

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Introduction: Although most practitioners are aware of the significance of proper documentation, there are no true standards for documentation of regional anesthesia (RA) procedures. Instead, documentation is largely left to the discretion of the practitioner and the only applicable “standard” is one of prudence. Currently, most RA procedures are documented in the narrative portion of the anesthetic record. The lack of standardization contributes to lack of uniformity, lack of consistency and perhaps an inadequacy in documentation. The purpose of this abstract is to present a uniform procedure documentation form for peripheral nerve blocks.

Methods: The key points in the documentation of RA procedures were identified by interviewing several regional anesthesiologists. These points were incorporated into a form designed specifically for RA documentation. The form is currently being piloted.

Results: The following template was developed.

Peripheral Nerve Block

Procedure Note

Attending				Date	
Fellow/Resident				Time	
Diagnosis			Procedure		
Pre-Procedure Vital Signs	BP	HR	RR	SpO ₂	
Sedation					
Patient Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Supine <input type="checkbox"/> Prone <input type="checkbox"/> Lateral <input type="checkbox"/> Other:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Area Prepped with _____; <input type="checkbox"/> Area Draped Sterile Site _____					
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Anesthesia: 1% Lidocaine at site					
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ GA Block Needle used					
<input type="checkbox"/> Paresthesia					
<input type="checkbox"/> Nerve Stimulator for Electrolocation from _____ mA to _____ mA					
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Response:					
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ cc of _____ injected incrementally without incident after negative aspiration of blood					
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ catheter inserted _____ cm into _____					
<input type="checkbox"/> Patient Tolerated Procedure Well					
Comments					
<input type="checkbox"/> I assisted and was present throughout peripheral nerve block					
<input type="checkbox"/> I personally performed peripheral nerve block					
Attending			Date/Time		
Fellow/Resident			Date/Time		

Conclusion: A dedicated procedure note for RA procedures may enhance the quality of documentation. Moreover, documentation of certain key elements of the procedure may have clinical and medico-legal implications. Additionally, defined documentation may facilitate billing in light of the new codes for RA.