

IMPLEMENTING A REGIONAL ANESTHESIA SERVICE IN THE PREOPERATIVE AREA FOR ORTHOPEDIC PATIENTS

Team Leaders: Eleanor Mowbray RN BSN CPAN, Ann Deacon RN MSN CPAN,
Ann Duran RN CPAN, Kyung Jun RN MSN CNOR, Kapil Anand MD
Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

Background Information: With the opening of our new orthopedic operating rooms, came a rapid increase in the need to develop a new system to administer peripheral nerve blocks/regional anesthesia. This expansion suggested the creation of a structure that would allow more pre-operative blocks to be performed in the pre-operative setting while preserving efficiency, lack of operating room delays and patient safety.

Objectives of Project: To create a portable regional anesthesia cart housing all the basic necessities needed to administer a safe and seamless peripheral nerve block in the pre-operative setting including emergency treatment protocols and oxygen delivery mechanisms. We then designated a team of perioperative nurses that were trained to assist anesthesiologists with the placement of regional blocks, as well as educating patients on regional anesthesia.

Process of Implementation: The head of our regional anesthesia developed training tools for our designated PACU nurses. The nurses went through various educational lectures and became proficient in assisting the placement of peripheral nerve blocks, monitoring post-procedural complications, and emergency situations related to local anesthesia toxicity.

Statement of Successful Practice: Since the commencement of this practice in June, 2013, the operating room teams have experienced a decrease in delay of start times. To date, there have also been zero wrong-sided peripheral nerve blocks in the pre-operative setting.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Overall, with the implementation of this team and practice there is an increase in patient satisfaction due to an increase in efficient pain control. The designated nurses have expressed a satisfaction in their new skill as well as an increase in the interdepartmental communication that came with the training and procedures.