Abstract

Long-acting peripheral nerve blocks provide effective postoperative pain management, but there are risks associated with rendering an extremity insensate. Perianesthesia nurses play a major role in anticipating and mitigating risks and carefully monitoring patients for potential complications. This article presents uncommon but important considerations related to the care of patients with a peripheral nerve block. These include compartment syndrome, local anesthetic systemic toxicity, thermal injuries, falls, and fractures as well as their management and prevention. The nurse's responsibility in discharge education after a peripheral nerve block is also discussed.